

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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CONTADORA, C.A. MINISTERS TO MEET 22 AUG

PA151423 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- The Contadora Group -- Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela -- foreign ministers will meet with their Central American counterparts on 22 August for a seventh round of negotiations, which should conclude with the signing of the first two commitment agreements among the countries affected by the conflict.

New Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Diaz, who replaced Eduardo Castillo Arriola following last week's coup, will attend the meeting.

The nine foreign ministers' agenda will proceed from the document issued by the Contadora presidents, a document issued by the foreign ministers of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador, and a separate document presented by Nicaragua calling for multilateral negotiations.

According to Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, the Contadora Group can only suspend its work of mediation and conciliation at the decision of the Central American countries. The minister then affirmed that the Central American nations have the last say with regard to alleviating the existing tensions.

ACTION GROUP CLAIMS ATTACK ON SHIP IN FALKLANDS

PY121440 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1322 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (TELAM) -- The Italian news agency ANSA today carried a London datelined report that an ultranationalist Argentine group called the Artigas-Giachino command has claimed responsibility for the explosion that took place on board the Danish ship Kraka moored in Puerto Argentino, capital of the Malvinas Islands, on 5 August.

A communique which this command sent to a British news agency in London was apparently written the day before the explosion which caused a fire on board the ship unloading granite blocks that were to be used to build a monument to British soldiers who died in the Argentine-British conflict over the islands.

According to London sources, the date on which the communique was written gives it a certain amount of credibility even though the UK Defense Ministry skeptically reported that as far as it is aware the Danish freighter Kraka developed a fire which was put out. We do not accept the claim that this fire was set deliberately, it added.

In its communique the self-styled Artigas-Giachino command indicated that it had placed bombs on board the Danish ship and that these bombs exploded while it was in Puerto Argentino.

POLAND DENIES BOATS FISHING IN FALKLANDS WATERS

PY151904 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1825 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Aug (TELAM) -- The Polish maritime economy minister has denied that Polish fishing ships pay duties to Great Britain to fish in the waters of the Malvinas Islands, and asserted that the ships are operating outside the exclusion zone and, in case they enter, they do not ask the British for permission.

Mr Jerzy Korzonek arrived today at noon at Ezeiza International Airport for a visit related to the agreement signed by Poland with an Argentine shipyard for the building of merchant ships, the first of which will soon be launched.

When questioned about reports saying that fishing fleets from socialist countries are encroaching on the fishing areas near the Malvinas Islands, the foreign official categorically denied that rumor. Visibly annoyed, he replied: We are not fishing in Antarctic waters and we do not pay any fishing duties to Great Britain. He added: We are fishing outside the exclusion zone and, if we enter it, we do not ask the British for permission.

JUDGE URGES EXTRADITION OF BOLIVIA'S ARCE GOMEZ

PY122254 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1307 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (TELAM) -- Federal Judge Alberto D. Piotti has requested that Judge Jose Nicasio Dibur take under advisement the extradition of Luis Arce Gomez, former Bolivian colonel and minister, which has been requested by the United States. The judge's request was made known in the court building this morning.

POWERFUL BOMB DESTROYS MAGAZINE EDITING ROOM

PY111403 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1114 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Aug (NA) -- A powerful bomb went off before dawn today in the magazine EL PORTENO's editing room, located in the Constitution district. At least two persons were injured by the blast. The attack took place at 0300 today, and according to police sources a strong TNT bomb was used.

Two persons from a neighboring house, a 38-year-old man and his 3-year-old daughter -- not yet identified -- were injured by flying glass. They were immediately taken to Argerich hospital, where they received medical treatment. It was later verified that the EL PORTENO editing room was totally destroyed by the violent explosion.

In its latest issue, EL PORTENO included an extensive article on the children who have been missing in the country since 1976, and also an article entitled "Disappearance, That Monstrous Figure," signed by human rights defender and leader Augusto Conte. During the past few days, EL PORTENO conducted an intensive advertising campaign by sticking posters on walls announcing the missing persons story.

SEVERAL WOUNDED IN DISPUTE AMONG JUSTICIALISTS

PY131611 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1350 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Aug (NA) -- According to today's edition of the newspaper LA VOZ, three members of the Justicialist Party were seriously wounded and six slightly wounded during an incident between opposing groups of the party's San Martin faction in Buenos Aires.

The incident took place at dawn yesterday when supporters of slate 95 of this city, who were painting slogans related to the internal electoral campaign, held a discussion with members of slate 310 and of the "Alberto Manuel Campos group."

In the incident, the following persons were seriously wounded: Julio Fossati, who also had a slight heart attack as a consequence of the incident, Mario Chavez, and Carlos Rossini. At the same time, Jose Denaro, Marcos Rodriguez, Rene Salvatierra, Jose Decima, Carlos Olmedo, and Hector Palacios also suffered wounds, cuts, and other injuries.

According to the communique issued by slate 95, "Carlos Esvlapon, a member of the union of Justicialist groups, was one of the attackers." The communique points out that Esvlapon's group resorted to "firearms, truncheons, and chains" and warned the victims not to report the incident to the police.

CGT-RA COMMUNIQUE ON LATEST ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY121418 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2240 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Aug (TELAM) -- The General Labor Confederation of the Argentine Republic [CGT-RA] has released a communique stating that the package of economic measures which has just been dictated by the government is the result of a desperate effort to try and meet its commitments with the IMF.

The communique, which is signed by Secretary General Saul Ubaldini and Press Secretary Ricardo Perez, affirms that the measures are not only insufficient but also are not part of a coherent plan, because they will not halt tax evasion nor will they stop foreign exchange speculations which only benefit the moneyed class.

The communique adds that the package does not guarantee that the credit facilities extended will be reflected, partly at least, in the recovery of real salaries. On the contrary, the words of economic area officials indicate that salary increases will be lower than cost of living increases.

The government should take notice that the CGT-RA is not making threats, but will not tire of warning that the government, by continuing down this path, is pushing the workers to take action in defense of their rights. The communique ends up by saying that the workers will not let the provocation go unanswered, because they know about such methods and objectives directed against them and because for them there is no supreme objective other than the workers' objective, which is identified with that of the nation itself.

ELECTORAL CHAMBER RECOGNIZES COMMUNIST PARTY

PY142215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0029 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (EFE) -- The Argentine Communist Party was officially recognized today by the National Electoral Chamber, which states in its final verdict that, according to the opinions prevailing in the West, this political movement has its place in the democratic system. The judges base their verdict on the examples of Spain, France, the FRG and, particularly, the United States, "where several communist parties also participate in elections."

ELECTORAL JUDGE CERTIFIES SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

PY142233 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 13 Aug 83 p 14

[Text] The Social Democratic Party [PDS] has reported in a communique that Eduardo Marquardt, the judge with national electoral jurisdiction, has issued the definitive resolution by which he recognizes the group as a national party. Today, from 1500 to 1900, all PDS branches in Buenos Aires Province will hold simultaneous assemblies to elect, in the second-round balloting, the members of the Buenos Aires Executive Board.

All registered members of the district have a right to cast ballots, and the list of candidates is headed by Francisco Pasini, Aldo Arrighi, Luis N. Fabrizio, Alfredo Durante, Roberto Dawson, Antonio Coccaro, Eduardo Maradona, Nestor Raffo, Juan Carlos Nigro, Ruben Maimone, and Hector Cola. The list of candidates is made up of 36 leaders and half of them are to be elected.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER HUGHES' AIR FORCE DAY SPEECH

PY120131 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 10 Aug 83

[Speech by Air Force Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Augusto Jorge Hughes on Air Force Day, 10 August, in Buenos Aires -- Live]

[Text] Mr President of the Supreme Court of Justice, Mr Defense Minister, Mr Chief of Staff of the Army, Mr Representative of the Navy, Buenos Aires City Intendant, Messrs former Commanders in Chief of the Air Force, Your Excellency Vicar of the Armed Forces, Messrs former Ministers and Secretaries of the Aeronautic Ministry, civilian and military authorities, Messrs representatives of enterprises and personnel that cooperated with the Air Force during the South Atlantic conflict, Messrs representatives of organizations linked to aeronautic activities, military and civilian personnel, and soldiers of the Air Forces, ladies and gentlemen:

The Air Force was created due to the generous effort of our people. On 10 August 1912, a day like today, civilians and militarymen jointly founded the Military Aviation School.

Aviation appeared in this century, which witnessed incredible development, from the unstable flight of frail monoplanes to the conquest of space. Despite these amazing feats, this decade still expects promising achievements before the beginning of the next decade.

The domain and planning of the fourth dimension -- time -- is one of the integral characteristics of the modern era. Shortening time in historic terms and the perpetual acceleration of development are the result of mankind's creativity. At the same time, the people are confronted with the great challenge of [word indistinct], interpreting, controlling, and conducting the technological boom in such a way that it becomes nothing less than the means or the tool to create a better society, a better Argentina.

We maintain the conviction that man is and will continue to be the most valuable, the most important element of any institution. Therefore, we place, and will continue to place, emphasis on the efforts which the spiritual, moral, intellectual, and civilian training of the permanent cadre and the citizens entrusted to us by the fatherland demands. It is obvious that the institutions are valued by their representatives. Each and every one of us has inherited this representation, and we must honor it with our behavior.

The institutions have their life, their own soul. They are the creation of the spirit, of the men guided by the mission which gave them their *raison d'etre*. Peace of the soul is attained through what is achieved and cannot be attained through propaganda, lies, or envy. We achieve this result when we have a clear conscience, when we are aware that we have done things well, when we were able to do so, and when we have told the truth when we knew it. The calm attitude with which the Air Force receives and analyzes the statements that are not in keeping with its actual performance as an Air Force or with its publicly disclosed beliefs are based on these premises.

There is one sole option for all of us who belong to the institution, and that is: to be better. There is nothing more important than man in achieving objectives, guaranteeing procedures, and securing the completion of the mission.

Let us zealously guard our experience, the Christian [word indistinct] and the successful methods used to train our personnel. This credo has been proven by Air Force heroes who, forsaking all material compensation and honoring the basic virtues of a soldier -- combat capacity, courage, and daring -- are forever guarding the borders of our Malvinas and the cold waters of the South Atlantic.

No arbitrary measure may ever replace personal inclination, knowledge, spirit, intelligence, and willingness. Therefore, the first thing a good leader should do is seek the advice of those who are better informed, of those who, because of their conduct, example, and responsibility, are the true interpreters of the aspirations of those they lead and who, thus, truly dominate the institutional situation. The authority and prestige of those who lead, or who have led, is evaluated and praised in regard to with situation in which they carried out their activities.

As for the reequipping of the force, the policy I have upheld in this regard has always been and continues to be that of not increasing the external debt by even a single dollar, because what is good for the country and its citizens is also good for the Air Force.

In view of this, I would like to inform the civilian and military personnel that all of us who have a command are aware of the difficult situation the institution is experiencing, since its resources have been decreased because of the war. Moreover, we clearly understand that we are unable to replace Air Force materiel in view of the national economic crisis.

Your commander in chief knows in detail the problems that unit commanders must daily confront to keep their planes in the air and the efforts that the crews are making, with notable work and imagination, to meet the lack of resources. Your commander is aware of all this and he understands the frustration of his men when indispensable requirements are not met as they should be. However, we should note that the Air Force is part of an indivisible whole -- the nation. As such, it must offer its share of sacrifice and understanding by recognizing that the country currently has other priorities that must confronted.

If we are to be just, we must compare our present needs with the drama of the floods that some provinces are experiencing. It is the people of these provinces who are courageous; it is they who should received priority attention. In this emergency, the Air Force is openly and frankly at the service of these communities, as it will always be at the service of the welfare of the Argentine people whenever they demand it.

In view of the present situation, your commander has little to offer, but much to demand: more sacrifice, more work. But he knows that he has the full understanding of the cadres, since only in this manner shall we be able to achieve the necessary operational capacity that is required to fully exercise sovereignty over our fatherland's airspace.

I ask you to act with the same courage that you displayed during the Malvinas war and during peace. Let us act during peace time in the same manner that we acted in war: silent but firm in our decisions; modest, but aware of our power; professional, but aware of our national reality.

In the last few years, we have acted in an atmopshere that has been filled with obstacles, resentments, and animosities. However, this situation was not brought about by our own free will; rather, it was the result of many mistakes that were made over many years.

The Air Force has not and does not have any desire for political power. This is demonstrated daily, and yet, sharing an unavoidable responsibility, I have assumed an important role in the management of the country. We are aware of our mission in the sky, and we are also aware of our errors in the political sector, but then, this is not our duty.

However, we feel that we qualify to continue to be the efficient armed branch that will guarantee political power to rule over the country with the persuasive support extended by a modern, powerful, and professional Air Force that meets the requirements posed by a country that seeks to have a preeminent position among nations.

We already have the necessary human resources. This is not an arrogant statement by the commander in chief; it is what the press has proclaimed around the world since the Malvinas war. Commenting on our pilots, Madrid newspapers praised their courage to defend life, their responsibility to assume a deadly risk, their love for their nation, and their boldness in action.

Our enemy has expressed its admiration for the ability and courage of our men, whose patriotic will and Argentine courage made up for material shortcomings, and showed that the oath to defend our fatherland, even at the expense of life, is not merely a rhetorical formula.

Since our childhood, we have repeated the national anthem, which is the expression of our feelings. One of its verses, of great significance for future generations, reads: With glory we shall live, or we swear that with glory we shall die.

We have provided evidence of the Air Force's determination to fulfill its historic mission. We can look at the past with pride, bearing the bitterness of defeat with the certainty that Argentina's dignity and honor have been safeguarded by the courage and devotion of its soldiers.

With appropriate means and in close cooperation with our sister forces, we shall be able to struggle with dignity to bring new laurels to the national coat of arms in defense of our rights.

There is something worse than having lost a war; it is to live without honor, without the will to overcome this state of spiritual weakness that seems to have pervaded the hearts of many Argentines.

On Air Force Day, if weather permits, a reduced squad will leave aside its usual activities and fly the fatherland's skies. On this occasion, the squad will not be as uniform as in an Air Force parade because the places of the heroes who gave their lives in defense of the nation will be empty. These empty places are our tribute to those who gave everything for their ideal, without even asking for the people's gratitude. Their reward is their glorious death. Our pride is that they dressed in the Air Force's (blue) uniform. They live in the gratitude of those who silently recognize the value of their boundless devotion.

Civil planes will also fly our skies today, because now that peace prevails we want to gather all those who make up the air power and who in one way or another played a role in the remote south, more than ever before united in the defense of the sacred and sovereign interests of our nation.

Let this expression of brotherhood be a call for harmony and understanding for all Argentines of good will, whom we urge to envision the destiny, not just of the Armed Forces, but of the country as a whole, by uniting efforts and pursuing common objectives to consolidate the national unity. This is the sentiment of the Air Force: to develop and improve its capabilities in an institutionalized country at peace, reunited with a people who make its existence possible and provide its manpower; and most importantly, who are exclusively devoted to carry out its mission of defending the nation's sovereign airspace, contributing to ensure the security and welfare of its fellow countrymen. The will of the Air Force is to serve the nation.

As we can see, the present time places responsibilities upon us, in the context of a historical juncture in which God, fatherland, family, freedom, authority, service, love, sacrifice, friendship, dedication, and honor are almost meaningless concepts, thus causing moral disintegration. Therefore, those of us who share the same convictions must close ranks, must stand shoulder to shoulder. These are times for action, not for conceptualization, for demonstrating conduct, and above all for manifesting a devotion to service in the quest of the common good, with faith in the results to be achieved.

It is our conviction that only with unity and clear vision of the role everyone must perform in total freedom, with prudence and responsibility, and dedicating our efforts to the specific tasks assigned by the national Constitution, we will again become, under God's protection, the sovereign country we all want to be. I reiterate what I said a year ago when I assumed the post of Air Force commander: If we are capable of uniting our wills and envisioning the future, without giving offense or entering into connivances, abiding by truth, understanding, and deep love for the fatherland, only then will the republican institutions have primacy and stability. This is the challenge we must meet so that the whole nation may move without delay toward its future of peace and grandeur.

As in other instances in our history, success depends entirely on the attainment of the national unity to which we aspire, so that all of us together can face the difficult tasks which lie ahead, with the understanding that the unity we seek will be the consequence of the actions we embark on to achieve it, not the consequence of impositions which might be deemed appropriate at a given time. The future will inexorably follow the course we set for it at this decisive moment. The success and the destiny of the nation is in our hands; it depends on our willpower, on God's assistance, on the unity of all Argentines, and on the practice of the Christian virtues of forgiveness and faith. I express my best hopes that we can be faithful interpreters of the sentiments of the citizenry, so that we may achieve, for the sake of the fatherland, the common good and peace, the historical mandate which has gone unfulfilled for so long. May God help us.

LABOR MINISTER PRAISES COGOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

PY150334 Paris AFP in Spanish 1546 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] La Paz, 13 Aug (AFP) -- Labor Minister Roberto Arnez, who is also a high-ranking leader of the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party (PCB), today said that the proposals of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) for cogovernment with President Hernan Siles Zuazo correspond with the intentions of the ruling Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP).

Arnez observed that the demand for labor control over private big business is the point which has caused the greatest alarm among the Bolivian Confederation of Private Businessmen, which has forgotten that such control has existed for many years, under various forms, in countries like France, Italy, Venezuela, and others.

He recognized that the COB is seeking a new course for the country to save it from a crisis which is not only internal but is also part of the crisis of the capitalist system which directly affects dependent countries. In turn, Deputy Planning Minister Ivan Finot stated that the intentions of the UDP, formed by the PCB, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), and the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), are not contrary to private business.

Regarding the same subject, the PCB has remarked that it will promote cogovernment with the greatest enthusiasm, because it has always been in favor of increased popular participation in the government of the country.

Meanwhile, the COB Executive Committee has charged that private business is distorting COB objectives, among which are the moratorium of the foreign debt, the rejection of IMF impositions, and the annulment of the contracts of two U.S. petroleum companies, to create an atmosphere contrary to comanagement. It has been learned that prominent COB leaders have started a tour of the most important mining and farming districts of the country to encourage statements by the people in favor of comanagement.

The Confederation of Businessmen has called an emergency meeting for next Monday in Santa Cruz, 1,000 km east of La Paz, with the intention of replying to what it terms as serious constitutional attacks against private business.

MINES MINISTER PROPOSES PREFERENTIAL DOLLAR RATE

PY150318 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Mines and Metallurgy Minister Carlos Barragan has pointed out the need for a preferential dollar exchange rate as an essential measure to achieve the recovery of the Bolivian economy. In this regard, he pointed out the need for a preferential dollar exchange rate for staples. He said that this rate must be low and controlled by the people's organizations. The rate for those goods which are not essential for the productive sector or the maintenance of the people should be much higher.

Barragan stated that this is the position of the Bolivian Communist Party regarding state enterprises because it wants the cooperation between the COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] and the ENAF [National Smelting Enterprise] to be effective. For this propose, it is necessary to establish a preferential rate policy as well as a fiscal credit policy that will help these enterprises survive the difficult times they are facing.

EDITORIAL ON COMMUNISTS' DESIGNS FOR COUNTRY

PY131915 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 2 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial: "The Faces of Communism"]

[Excerpts] While in Bolivia, all communist groups, whether they come from Beijing or Moscow, almost convincingly play the game of democracy. It is interesting to see what is happening in other countries in this regard.

The examples of Peru, Nicaragua, and Poland should be enough to make us aware that, here in Bolivia, the communists are temporarily camouflaged in sheep skins. However, in the meantime, they illegally introduce arms into the country, establish militias under the name of miner's police, and run guerrilla training camps in coordination with all Latin American subversive group. They believe that this is not yet the proper time; therefore, they defend in Bolivia those rights that they do not tolerate in nations they have already conquered.

They work undercover in Bolivia. They have the protective umbrella of a democratic regime that has allowed them to acquire power which they cannot democratically obtain, nor hope to obtain because of their small number. However, the communists' current objective is to turn our nation into a base for spreading guerrilla movements in the continent, and especially in the Southern Cone. This explains why citizens of various nationalities who are experienced in guerrilla warfare are coming to Bolivia. The plan is being carefully implemented without hesitation. Silence is their best weapon while they wait for the signal to go into action. Meanwhile, song festivals and cultural and artistic activities are politically manipulated, even to the point of exploiting the naivete of our youth to bring them out on the streets waving Sandinist banners and wearing red turtleneck shirts.

We ask ourselves whether all the officials of the current government, many of whom have a clear and meritorious nationalist political background, accept the role which international communism has assigned to Bolivia. If they are not blind, if they can see, we cannot imagine why they permit our nation to be transformed into the spearhead of Red guerrillas in Latin America.

CHAMBER SUPPORTS CHILEAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

PY130030 Paris AFP in Spanish 1614 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] La Paz, 12 Aug (AFP) -- The Bolivian Chamber of Deputies has expressed its support of the Chilean people's struggle to recover their freedoms.

The draft resolution submitted by the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP), the Christian Democratic Party, and the Socialist Party-1 (PS-1) to the second session of the present legislature, was supported by the conservative Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) and the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN).

The statement notes that the Chilean people are struggling for the enforcement of their democratic freedoms and the defense of human rights, which have been violated over the past 10 years ago.

The fourth national day of protest against the government of General Augusto Pinochet was supported here with a march held in front of the Chilean Consulate. Bolivia and Chile do not maintain diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

FIGUEIREDO RETURNS HOME, TAKES 15 DAYS LEAVE

PY130202 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Excerpts] President Figueiredo is in Brasilia. The following is a report from (Joao Pena) of the BRAZILIAN NEWS AGENCY. [Begin relay] The Boeing carrying President Figueiredo landed at 1845, and the president stepped on Brazilian soil at 1848. He was welcomed by Acting President Aureliano Chaves; ministers of state; the presidents of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, and higher courts; dozens of congressmen; and other high-ranking officials.

After attending the welcoming ceremony in the official reception room, the president delivered a note to Congress President Nilo Coelho, Vice President Aureliano Chaves, and Supreme Federal Court President Cordeiro Guerra. The note says: Your Excellency Antonio Aureliano Chaves de Mendonca, vice president of the republic. I hereby inform Your Excellency that the medical board responsible for the bypass surgery and post-operative treatment which I underwent in the Cleveland Clinic in the United States, after making an evaluation of my convalescence, concluded on the need for a 15-day leave of absence from the presidency starting on the day of my return to Brazil, set for 12 August. In compliance with this medical recommendation, which represents a temporary suspension of my duties, I convey to Your Excellency that I will be absent from my duties for 15 days starting the day of my arrival in Brazil. I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest esteem. Cordially, Joao Figueiredo. [end relay]

SAO PAULO BUSINESSMEN CALL FOR ECONOMIC CHANGES

PY121414 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Twelve of Sao Paulo's biggest businessmen have submitted a 12-page document to acting President Aureliano Chaves. The paper states that Brazil's economic problems cannot be blamed on international factors alone.

The document goes on to say that recession is hardly the best way to deal with the crisis, and adds that a lengthy reduction of productive activities is bound to lead to the collapse of Brazil's private enterprise.

To deal with the problem, the businessmen's document suggests that a domestic financial reorganization be implemented to cut down on costs. Furthermore, it calls for freeing the economy from its ties with the dollar standard in order to create conditions appropriate for the renegotiation of the foreign debt.

The main businessmen agree that the foreign debt must be urgently renegotiated. The only differences among them concern the extent of the demands which Brazil can make at the negotiations table.

ARMED FORCES LAY PLANS FOR PERSONNEL INCREASES

PY111628 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Aug 83 p 6

[Text] According to a study on the need to increase the number of Brazilian troops, the Armed Forces will have approximately 380,000 men before the year 2000, and they will be equipped and armed by the national military industry. The study is under consideration by the military cabinet of the presidency.

The Army, which currently has 182,784 men, is planning to increase the number of its troops by 50 percent, that is, by 93,392 men by 1993, on a step-by-step basis. This increase takes into account the difficulties involved in the training of specialized personnel and in the renewal of equipment. The Air Force and the Navy, which currently have 45,000 and 43,000 men, respectively, are planning a short-term increase. The Air Force wants 9,500 more men and the Navy only 1,000.

The three branches agree that Brazil's current 270,000 troops are not enough in the face of the changes that have taken place in Brazil and in the rest of the world. Therefore, the mission that the Constitution has imposed on the Armed Forces has been made more difficult.

The military cabinet of the presidency is studying the increase in the number of troops. A major problem has been the difficult financial situation that Brazil is going through. Even though the final decision will be made by President Joao Figueiredo, acting President Aureliano Chaves is already aware of the plans of the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy.

The Army only has a few more troops now than it had in 1955 when the Brazilian population was still under 60 million (169,845 men). In 1974, that number was raised to 182,784 men.

According to high-ranking military sources, Brazil began its industrial development in 1955 on the basis of its steel-making industry, seeking to replace imported non-perishable goods. At that time, the Army had to comply with the terms of a Brazilian-U.S. military agreement. That agreement was abrogated in 1977 because it no longer served the national interests.

In the international arena, the focus of tension was closer to Southeast Asia after the surrender of French troops at Dienbienphu. Hungary challenged the Soviet domination and fell into Russia's hands in 1956. Fidel Castro had not yet started the revolution that would end with communist doctrine being promulgated in Cuba.

The same sources wonder if it would be possible to reach a state of "effective operational level" with the current number of troops after so many changes have taken place: "Over the last 30 years," they remark, "the Brazilian population has doubled and economic frontiers have expanded substantially. Therefore, to have a presence throughout the national territory, the Army has had to make changes and move the headquarters of many military units. However, those structural changes were carried out without the corresponding increase in the number of troops. Therefore, the new units were assigned troops from other units, thus creating inappropriate conditions for the fulfillment of their mission."

According to studies undertaken by the Army staff, the main objective of an eventual increase in the number of troops, even in the medium term, would be "to meet the needs of the existing units, particularly combat units and combat support units, so that they can be better fitted to fulfill their constitutional duties, and to make it possible for us to create those units that are needed for providing administrative and combat support to combat units."

The Army General Staff also points out that units which according to regulations should have three subunits (companies, squadrons, or batteries) now only have one or two, which jeopardizes their operational effectiveness. Furthermore, artillery groups, engineering battalions, and logistics battalions which Army brigades and divisions need are also missing.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment and arms will be manufactured by Brazilian industry, in conjunction with the project to increase personnel. The Army's scientific and technological research and development plan includes some 50 projects for experimental development of materiel for military use. This plan focuses mainly on missiles, rockets, arms, and armored vehicles. In the final analysis, the target is to reconcile the personnel buildup with the policy which calls for "increasing to the maximum" the percentage of Brazilian-made military materiel.

SOCIAL ASPECTS

From the social viewpoint, the increase in military personnel is looked upon as an opportunity to provide 110,000 jobs, in the face of worldwide unemployment prospects.

The personnel buildup would also demand a review of the military service doctrine, taking into consideration the statistics which the Armed Forces joint staff recently compiled. Of the 1.5 million 18-year-old youths who present themselves annually before the draft boards, 45 percent are turned away for physical or mental shortcomings. Of these, 30 percent are completely rejected as unsuitable.

The Air Force was the first to submit a study showing the need to increase its personnel. In its proposal to the president 1 year ago, the Aeronautics Ministry showed that its activities, in addition to those related to the military role of the Air Force, have grown considerably, especially since the implementation of a policy to improve airport services and facilities, and a new system for the control and defense of Brazilian airspace.

In addition to stretching its budgetary resources, the Aeronautics Ministry has had to deploy its military personnel to cope with the shortage of technicians and specialized manpower needed to implement the two projects.

So far, the ministry has been able to satisfy its need for more personnel by drawing on its military staff and by hiring civilians whom they train for various activities, especially air traffic control.

Now that the system of airspace defense is being expanded in the south of the country, the manpower situation has become critical, because Air Force personnel expansion over recent years has been well below true requirements and totally out of proportion to the growth of the activities of the Air Force.

The Aeronautics Ministry proposal calls for 9,500 more officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men. The ministry pointed out that a new regional air command, the seventh, was recently created in Amazonia and that this command is being staffed by assigning officers and noncommissioned officers from other regional air commands. However, most of the new recruits will be used for airspace control and defense, which is currently viewed as a field of great economic significance for the nation in addition to being a safety factor for civil aviation.

The proposal the Navy submitted some time after that of the Air Force asks for a mere 1,000 more men. Most of them would be officers in view of the expansion of the war fleet, which in this decade alone will have four more corvettes that are being built in Brazil.

EDITORIAL ADVOCATES PROFESSIONAL ARMED FORCES

PY102102 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Aug 83 p 10

[Editorial: "Professional Level"]

[Excerpts] Under the policy of professionalization of the Armed Forces, the replacement of compulsory by voluntary military service constitutes an important step.

Compulsary military service, under which the draftees receive training at the barracks for 10 months before returning to civilian life, permits the nation to have an Armed Forces from the statistical standpoint. However, this is more so in appearance than in reality. Because of the kind of training he receives, the conscripted soldier cannot operate the sophisticated engines of modern warfare. The Brazilian Armed Forces arrived at this conclusion after analyzing the military consequences of the Falkland war.

Professionalism is what makes the modern Armed Forces valuable. The sophisticated, and ever more expensive, weapons which are to be used in a war call for professional soldiers who are trained in their use. Only this type of soldier will be useful to the nation. The draftee who is called in case of war will not be in the position to acquit himself well in confrontations with professional soldiers or even guerrillas.

The measures to be taken for changing the current system of military service will complete the process of modernization of the Brazilian Armed Forces. Along with the modernization of equipment, there should be a modernization of personnel training methods. To this end, the studies being made by the Armed Forces represent an effort to rid Brazil of military amateurism.

BRIEFS

MILITARY PROMOTIONS -- Brasilia -- Acting President Aureliano Chaves yesterday approved the promotions of 14 officials. Army Generals Mario Silva O'Reilly Sousa and Ademar da Costa Machado were promoted to four-star general, and Brigadier General Hermano Lomba Santoro to major general in the Military Engineering Corps. Two positions of brigadier general in combat units were filled by Generals Helio Pacheco and Manoel Augusto Teixeira, and three positions were filled by Infantry Colonels Luis Paulo Fernandes de Almeida, Jose Moretzshon, and Amauri Sa Freire de Lima. Colonel Aureliano Pinto de Moura was promoted to brigadier general in the Medical Corps. In the Air Force, Brigadier Generals Max Alvin and Tabira de Bras Coutinho were promoted to major general and Colonels Luis Hugo Correa Marinho and Nelson Leite Lobo to brigadier general. In the Navy, Captain Sergio Roberto Castro Oliveiri Gueiroz was promoted to rear admiral. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jul 83 p 12 PY]

ARMY PURCHASES RIFLES -- Porto Alegre -- On 25 July, Norberto Rossi, director of Amadeo Rossi S.A. Armas e Municoes, reported in Sao Leopoldo, 34 km from Porto Alegre, that his firm has provided more than 9,000 compressed-air rifles to the Army since last year. In the Army, the 4.5-millimeter caliber rifles are known as EB79. [Excerpts] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Jul 83 p 19 PY]

PLEBISCITE TO BE CALLED ON CONGRESS ELECTION

PY151245 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1409 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 14 Aug -- New Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has announced that the Chilean electorate will be called to a plebiscite to approve an amendment to the 1980 Constitution in order to advance the date of the installation of the congress.

The new minister, who took over on 10 August replacing General Enrique Montero, has been at the center of journalists' attention and has given a full-page interview to the newspapers EL MERCURIO and LA TERCERA DE LA HORA.

Speaking about the political laws which the president of the nation promised to send to the Council of State for study, Onofre Jarpa admitted that they could go into effect before 1990, the date set forth in the Constitution. He said, however, that this would make it necessary to make a constitutional amendment for which the people will have to be called for a plebiscite.

Jarpa explained: "I cannot tell you when, but we will have an elected congress before 1990. However, the people will have the final say through a plebiscite, because in order to put these laws into effect before the time established in the Constitution, an amendment to the latter is required."

The basic laws which the president has announced are the electoral law, the law on the electoral court, the law on the national congress, and the political parties statute -- in addition to 40 other equally important laws which are of less public impact.

Sergio Onofre Jarpa reiterated that "the Council of State will want to hear the opinion of all democratic sectors and will also request the opinion of persons who, without being members of specific trends of opinion, have political experience."

The interior minister admitted that "there are bound to be minority groups which will try to hamper the march toward full democracy," but indicated that despite these circumstances "the government will follow the course that has been set because it has undertaken a commitment to the Chilean people that must be fulfilled by 1990, and this mission must be carried out."

Speaking about the events of 11 August and the following days, that is, the fourth day of national protest which started only a few hours after Jarpa's term in office began, he said that what happened was unfortunate. He added: "the government is not responsible for the people that were killed and injured. The ones to blame are those who called an allegedly peaceful protest, which was not peaceful at all."

In addition, on the same subject, Minister Jarpa, former ambassador to Argentina, added that "the moral responsibility does not fall on this government, whose duty is to preserve public order and protect the interests of the people, especially the humble people."

Sergio Onofre Jarpa voiced his hope that "this atmosphere of vandalism and violence will end, and we will be able to openly take the path of dialogue which the government has proposed."

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY PROMISES 'NEW MEASURES'

PY151847 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Aug 83

[By Graciela Contreras]

[Text] The Chilean Government will announce several new political and economic measures aimed at resolving, to some extent, the problems which are affecting the citizenry. A few of these measures will be announced in the next few days. The first announcement is expected tomorrow at the end of the cabinet meeting over which the chief executive will preside, at 1700 at Government House.

This announcement was made today by Alfonso Marquez de la Plata, minister secretary general of government, in a press conference. Asked about the overall situation in the country, he said that it was absolutely normal. Marquez de la Plata was asked for an opinion about the pope's most recent statement concerning Chile. He answered that his holiness is greatly concerned over the situation which those who advocate violence created in Chile. It is (?obvious) that is where his concern lies.

The minister secretary general also spoke about Archbishop Francisco Fresno's call for understanding. He said that the interior minister has expressed his satisfaction over Msgr Fresno's remarks. He added that recent remarks of Rodolfo Seguel are positive, a means of cooperating to see that this country of ours will move forward amid peace and tranquillity.

[Begin Marquez de la Plata recording] The government is prepared to analyze all problems, every issue, both political and economic, and I believe that the only way to make our country better is to work together. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The minister secretary general of government was asked whether the government is prepared to initiate a broad dialogue. He answered: [Begin recording] The truth is that, as you have seen, the interior minister is meeting with everyone who is truly willing to help the country to achieve peace and move forward. I can hardly predict what he will decide, but the will for dialogue is there.

[Question] The president has said that even though the political problem is important, it is equally or even more important to solve the economic problems. Do you believe that our country's problem is economic or political, or is it both?

[Answer] Well, I believe that the entire problem stems from economic pressures; that is the truth. I believe that just a year ago the situation in the country was calm, but unfortunately a number of factors, which there is no point in recounting here, have come together to give rise to an economic problem, as has happened in a number of countries in the world. The government wants to solve these problems, and in the coming days you will have some news regarding the solution of these problems. There will be coordination between political and economic ministries to ensure that things are done properly and that all the problems of our country are solved. [end recording]

Alfonso Marquez de la Plata reiterated that there will be total coordination between political and economic management without any changes in the economic policy.

He explained that these will be practical measures aimed at making the country operational to the extent possible. He indicated that there can hardly be miracles -- they are quite impossible -- but everything will be done to reduce unemployment and solve the basic problems of the country.

LABOR LEADER SEGUEL SEES NO PROTEST ON 11 SEP

PY151843 Paris AFP in Spanish 1628 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 15 Aug (AFP) -- It was reported today that Chilean labor leader Rodolfo Seguel has announced that a possible fifth national protest day against the military regime will not be held on 11 September, because that is the Day of the Government [as received]. Seguel, who headed the first two protests against General Augusto Pinochet's regime, asserted that a new protest will not be held on 11 September, because we are not politicians and we will not interfere with that celebration.

The labor leader, who is participating in a seminar at the Iquique Archbishopric, 1,900 km north of Santiago, said that those protests will continue with the same purpose they had at the beginning.

The possibility of a new protest day to ask for President Augusto Pinochet's resignation was referred to last Friday by the opposition movement PRODEN (Project for Development of National Consensus), which also insisted on its proposal that a plebiscite be held.

Observers said that the PRODEN opposition is stronger than that of Seguel, who maintains that the cabinet changes made last Wednesday are a step in search of an opening. It is the result of an agreement which should be based on mutual respect, and I will tell the interior minister this at an upcoming meeting. The labor leader reported that he expects to have a meeting with Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa this week and that he has already asked for an audience.

Regarding the fourth protest day, he said that we reject any violent acts, from whatever side. We have always said this. They are not to be blamed on us, but on those who instigate them.

The 29-year-old labor leader asserted that he has a great longing for the unity of all Chileans. We want the dismissals at the copper mines to be annulled and we want to be listened to, he said.

The labor leader's words were highlighted by the Santiago morning papers, which also recalled the urgent calls for a dialogue made by the Catholic Church and the interior minister.

HAVANA SEES TENSE SITUATION IN SANTIAGO

PA152117 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] The situation in Santiago, Chile, remains tense following 4 days of demonstrations against the Augusto Pinochet regime amid a massive repressive response that left at least 24 people dead, more than 100 wounded, and 1,500 arrested. The police forces attacked hundreds of people in the Santiago district of Maipu yesterday when they were attending the funeral of one of those who was killed by the fascist dictatorship.

The demonstrators chanted slogans against the Pinochet regime, raised barricades, and set bonfires in the streets.

New Chilean Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa announced that a plebiscite will be held in the future, but he did not specify the date. He said that an elected congress will exist in Chile before 1990.

Onofre Jarpa, a former president of the rightwing National Party, described the Chilean people's demand that Pinochet step down as pure fantasy and praised the fascist military regime.

On Thursday, the Chilean people held the fourth day of national protest to demand Pinochet's resignation and the prompt reestablishment of a democratic governmental system.

Cites Police 'Aggression'

PA150115 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] The Chilean Armed Forces violently attacked the funeral entourage for three victims of official repression who were killed during the fourth national protest against Augusto Pinochet's regime last Thursday. The incidents took place in the vicinity of the general cemetery and in the Jose Maria Caro working class quarter, where railroad service was interrupted as a result of the protesters' response to the military forces' attack. Press agencies point out that the inhabitants responded to the police aggression with a barrage of stones that forced the closure of nearby railways.

Meanwhile, the Chilean Human Rights Commission has sent an urgent letter to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, which requests the presence in Chile of a representative from that most important of international organizations to investigate the violent incidents that took place last Thursday and Friday. The note tells of the brutal official repression of the people, who were protesting peacefully, and of the death of more than 25 people, the injuries sustained by hundreds, and the arrest of 1,500. The Chilean Human Rights Commission note speaks of the murder of four children by the repressive forces, which it terms a horrible crime.

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES, TRADE BALANCE IMPROVE

PY120022 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] The Central Bank reports that its international reserves increased by \$75 million between May and 14 July. The bank has reported that by mid-July the international reserves rose to \$1.56 billion. In April the reserves totaled \$1,485,000,000. This means that in two and one half months a total of \$75 million has been recovered. If the IMF funds that are already in the country are also taken into account, it is estimated that the country's assets now totaled \$2,006,000,000.

In turn, the trade balance, that is, imports subtracted from exports, shows a positive balance of \$701 million up to the present time. Up to 14 July, exports totaled \$2.1 million, while imports totaled \$1.4 million. This means that exports have remained practically unchanged, while imports have significantly dropped compared to the same period in 1982.

FARC GROUP REPORTEDLY KIDNAPS U.S. CITIZEN

PA160343 Paris AFP in Spanish 0324 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 15 Aug (AFP) -- A U.S. citizen named Martin Strimber was kidnapped today by guerrillas in northern Colombia, radio stations reported here tonight.

According to fragmentary reports from the sparsely populated and virtually isolated region of San Jose del Guaviare, some 600 km from Bogota, Strimber, who apparently owns a farm there, was intercepted by a group of the pro-Soviet, self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] when he disembarked from a light plane.

The sources said that Strimber has received anonymous threats in the last few weeks, saying that he would be kidnapped and demanding that he leave the country.

15 FARC GUERRILLAS REPORTED SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

PA150440 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- Fifteen guerrillas belonging to the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] have been seriously wounded and could die in the next few hours. The FARC insurgents were involved in several clashes with troops from the 2d Division in Cimitarra, in the southern part of Santander. According to ranking military sources, most of the guerrillas died. The wounded FARC guerrillas' current location is unknown at the moment, but a highly reliable source declared that their condition is serious and that death seems imminent.

SITUATION NORMAL IN GARZON AFTER M-19 ATTACK

PA151541 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Report by Carlos Gomez Herrera]

[Text] Public order in Huila Department is absolutely normal following an M-19 [19 April Movement] attack on Garzon Municipality, Huila Governor Antonio Jose Villegas has told this station.

Meanwhile, troops of the 9th Brigade have launched a special operation in the zone between Huila and Caqueta Departments in order to establish contact in the next few hours with the 150 M-19 members who looted four banks in Garzon and who, after storming the town, harassed the people. According to them, [former M-19 leader] Jaime Bateman Caryon is dead. The group stole 5 million pesos and is fleeing through the Caqueta and Huila Mountains with the army in hot pursuit.

M-19 COMMANDER CHARGES GOVERNMENT MILITARISM

PA152057 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Jul 83 p 11

[Article by Matilde Margain]

[Text] Commander Julia, a member of the 19 April Movement (M-19) high command, yesterday said that the Colombian Government has chosen to continue its militaristic policy, thereby closing the doors to dialogue and causing the political amnesty to fail. She said that the guerrilla organizations' unification process is continuing, and noted that it is possible they will present joint peace formulas to the government.

She said: "The process is at a standstill following the government's decision not to go beyond the amnesty, which was the first step on the path toward a dialogue for peace. The government has not ceased its repressive actions, nor has it solved the socioeconomic problems that it blames on the fighting. On the contrary, since the amnesty began almost a year ago, more than 300 people, including union leaders, politicians, students, and activists, to many of whom the amnesty applied, have disappeared."

"A campaign of mass murders and repression of the people has been launched in El Caqueta, resulting in more killings than those registered during the administration of Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala," she added.

Commander Julia, who was interviewed at the airport shortly before leaving, also discussed the military budget. She said that the budget has increased from \$100 million to \$600 million in the last few months, representing 20 percent of the total national budget. She said that the government has bought counterinsurgency equipment instead of weapons with which to repel attacks from abroad.

She added that this is the reason Colombia is being inconsistent when it participates in the Contadora Group, because a peace proposal for Central America should be accompanied by a similar domestic proposal.

She said: "What is happening is that the country's foreign policy serves to mask what is really going on in the country, where the government has opted for a military solution."

She acknowledged the Contadora Group's efforts to put an end to intervention in Central America, and expressed the M-19's support of those peace efforts, "although Colombia should recognize the FMLN as a belligerent force and as the main party involved in the Salvadoran situation, thereby attacking the problem at its roots instead of merely issuing calls for peace," she said.

She said that unification efforts with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] and with the Army of National Liberation (ELN) are in the advanced stages and that it is expected that a broad joint proposal will be delivered to the government. She recalled that M-19 leader Jaime Bateman was killed in an airplane crash while en route to a meeting with ELN leaders.

Commander Julia said that Bateman's death does not herald any change in the organization, "because our new leader is continuing our policy and we have a unified directorate."

GROUP PROTESTS MAS THREATS; NEW MILITARY ACTION

PA121905 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Bucaramanga -- A group made up of 200 inhabitants of the middle Magdalena region was occupied the former Barrancabermeja cathedral to protest death threats they have been receiving from the terrible Death to Kidnappers (MAS) death squad. The occupiers of the former cathedral, which is now known as the Sacred Heart Church, have demanded the presence of national government officials because they feel that departmental authorities cannot do anything for them. The group, composed of rural workers including men, women, and children, arrived in this city with all their belongings. According to an official spokesman, they left their property in the middle Magdalena region because alleged MAS members threatened to kill them.

Meanwhile, Puerto Berrio and Cimitarra will be the target of a new military strategy to reduce the shocking wave of violence there. Major General Diego Gonzalez Osa, the commander of the 2d Division, made this announcement. He said that these towns will be priority areas for actions against guerrillas and common criminals. He disclosed that seven guerrillas were buried in the jungle in the middle Magdalena region this morning.

BETANCUR MEETS ADVISORY COMMISSION, PLANS TRIP

PA121750 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian Government has announced that it will not submit the bill to congress that ratifies the Sea Convention, because it will first submit this convention for study to a group of experts who will review both the benefits and the detrimental aspects that it entails in defining marine and submarine areas with neighboring countries.

President Betancur made this decision after holding talks with the new Foreign Relations Advisory Commission, which he installed at Narino Palace. During talks with commission members -- among them former Presidents Misael Pastrana Borrero, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, and Alfonso Lopez Michelsen -- President Betancur and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo also discussed the evolution of Colombia's peace mediation for Central America within the Contadora Group. They discussed the path that the country should follow in order to defend its rights in the geostationary orbit -- owned by countries located in the equatorial area, but currently being used by those countries with special programs to put technical and military satellites in orbit.

One of the advisory commission members, Ambassador to Washington Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, told journalists that Colombia's position within the Contadora Group, which includes Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico, is being watched expectantly by the U.S. Government, which he said wants to help find a solution to the Central American crisis. Concerning this, he told this station that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who has just taken office as president of the U.S. Peace Commission for Central America, will come to Colombia in mid-September to hold talks with President Betancur during a tour of the mediating countries and those involved in the area problem.

CARACOL has also learned in advance that President Betancur has decided to visit the United States and three European countries between 3 and 12 October. During the trip, he will look into various economic and diplomatic matters. In New York he will address the EEC; in Paris, he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and with the consultation group; and in Spain, he will meet with King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and will receive the Prince of Asturias Prize, the most important after the Nobel Prize for those who dedicate themselves to the search for peace in the world.

COMMUNISTS PRAISE BETANCUR FOREIGN POLICY

PA131510 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Aug 83 p 8A

[Excerpts] According to a survey by EL TIEMPO, Colombian President Belisario Betancur's first year in office did not satisfy the liberals' aspirations but fully satisfied the conservatives, while the communists consider his only achievement to have been in international policy.

Gilberto Vieira, Chamber representative and secretary general of the Communist Party of Comombia, PCC, said:

Forus Communists, President Betancur's first year in government has been positive in matters of international policy, through such actions as Colombia's entrance into the Nonaligned Movement and the country's active participation in the Contadora Group, which is seeking political solutions for Central America's acute problems.

President Betancur successfully promoted the dialogue with the Salvadoran guerrillas with his U.S. counterpart. In contrast, the dialogue between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas, which should have progressed in order to secure a truce in the armed clashes, as proposed by both FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and M-19 [19 April Movement], has not yet culminated. Under these conditions, it is possible that President Betancur is contributing to peace in El Salvador. But if he does not take effective measures against the criminal activities of paramilitary groups, he will permit the development of factors leading to "Salvadorization" in Colombia. Regarding the Betancur government's economic policy, it has to be said that it has been unsuccessful so far. The announced reactivation is nowhere to be seen; on the contrary, it is a fact that unemployment is increasing. It is also to be noted that social problems have begun to be treated by repression, which has even shed the blood of workers and students in Buenaventura. We communists find Betancur's government positive in its international policy, but we have to express much criticism of its domestic policy.

BRIEFS

PUBLIC DEBT -- According to a report sent by Colombian Comptroller General Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia to President Belisario Betancur, the national public debt reached 249.841 billion pesos at the end of the first 4-month period. This amount was broken down into 248.817 billion pesos for principal and 1.024 billion pesos for interest. The total amount is further subdivided into 47.106 billion pesos for the internal debt and 202.735 billion pesos for the external debt, including principal plus interest. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jul 83 p 3D PA]

COAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT -- The Colombian Government yesterday signed a coal cooperation agreement with French and Italian state-run companies. The agreement is a letter of intent, to be followed by the signing of a contract for the exploitation of rich coal deposits in La Loma region, near the Cesar River. The Association of Geologists and Oil Engineers, AGEMPET [Asociacion de Geologos e Ingenieros de Petroleos], has asked the government to conduct geological studies before signing a contract for exploitation. The agreement was signed by representatives of the two European companies and a representative of the Colombian Coal Enterprise in the presence of French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson and Colombian Mines and Energy Minister Martinez Simahan. [Excerpts] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 3A PA]

PRESIDENT STROESSNER, NEW CABINET SWORN IN

PY151550 [Editorial Report] Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish at 1208 GMT on 15 August begins carrying live coverage from the Legislative Palace in Asuncion, where President Alfredo Stroessner will take the oath of office for the 1983-1988 period. The announcer says that the president of the nation is present, and the national anthem is then played. The anthem is sung by congressmen, members of the cabinet, and other national and foreign dignitaries present.

The announcer goes on to say that this solemn session of Congress is presided over by Senate President Juan Ramon Chaves, who says that this session of Congress has been called in keeping with constitutional provisions so that President Alfredo Stroessner may take the constitutional oath of office.

President Stroessner then reads the oath of office, promising to respect and enforce the national Constitution and the laws, after which he is congratulated by the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies and the president of the Supreme Court of Justice. Senate President Juan Ramon Chaves then says that, having fulfilled the duty for which it has been called, the session is closed. The announcer reports that the president receives the congratulations of members of his family and departs the Legislative Palace. Live coverage ends at 1218.

Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish at 1245 on 15 August begins carrying live coverage from Government House, where President Alfredo Stroessner will administer the oath of office to his cabinet. The announcer says that the president is now signing the decree appointing the ministers of the cabinet, who will now take their oaths.

At 1247 GMT, President Alfredo Stroessner, after reading the names of the cabinet ministers, asks them to swear to fulfill their duties loyally and in keeping with constitutional provisions and the laws of the nation. The ministers swear to do so, and National Notary General Pedro Ortigoza Ortiz reads the act which records the ceremony. The announcer reports that President Alfredo Stroessner has now signed the act and will be followed by the ministers of the new cabinet, whom he lists as follows:

Interior Minister	Dr Sabino Augusto Montanaro
Foreign Minister	Dr Carlos Augusto Saldivar (new appointee)
Finance Minister	Brig Gen Cesar Barrientos, retired
Education and Worship Minister	Dr Raul Pena
Agriculture and Livestock Minister	Eng Hernando Bertoni
Industries and Commerce Minister	Dr Delfin Ugarte Centurion
Public Works and Communications Minister	Maj Gen Juan Antonio Caceres, retired
Defense Minister	Maj Gen Gaspar German Martinez (new appointee)
Public Health and Social Welfare Minister	Dr Adan Godoy Jimenez
Justice and Labor Minister	Dr Jose Eugenio Jaquet (new appointee)

The announcer goes on to say that the act is now signed by Dr Juan Ramon Chaves as president of the Chamber of Senators and head of the Colorado Party, outgoing Supreme Court President Juan Felix Morales, Senator Ezequiel Gonzalez Alcina, Senator Luis Maria Argana, and Dr Juan Manuel Frutos. Live coverage ends at 1258 GMT with the announcer reporting that President Alfredo Stroessner is now leaving to attend a mass at the national cathedral and the military parade which will take place on Mariscal Francisco Solano Lopez Avenue.

RADICAL LIBERALS PROTEST, BOYCOTT INAUGURATION

PY151642 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Aug 83 p 8

[Excerpt] According to a communique issued by the Radical Liberal Party (PLR), headed by Dr Enzo Doldan, the congressmen of the party will not attend the national Congress session this morning during which President Alfredo Stroessner will take the oath to begin a new government period.

The communique says that the measure will be taken as an "expression and testimony of formal protest in view of the great civic decline." The document also lists a number of other reasons and states that they "are evidence of the introduction of an absolute despotism under the disguise of democracy, rather than a move toward democracy."

The PLR maintains that the "process has dangerously developed toward a form of absolutism under which discretionary and arbitrary power has been exercised for over 30 years in an uninterrupted state of siege." The party states that "the regime in all its arrogance upholds the false and distorted theory of nationalism through which it misrepresents the facts and tries to justify the unity of government, Army, and Colorado Party, perverting the basic function of the national Army, which can never be a party branch if it is to comply fully with its role of safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation, if that function is understood not only as the duty to watch over the integrity of the borders but also over the defense of human rights."

The PLR says that "the shameful manipulation of the voter registration process of citizens in the national electoral registers also continues, maintaining all kinds of systematic fraud which corrupts and mocks democracy." The PLR communique also says: It is stated that international communism is being fought, but in fact it is imitated -- even in its methods -- by introducing class struggle and the sowing of hatred among Paraguayans as forms of political action."

EDITORIAL ASKS REGIME FOR DISCLOSURE, TRANSITION

PY122131 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Aug 83 p 10

[Editorial: "Politics and National Reality"]

[Text] A practice that is becoming standard in democratic countries is the increase in communication between the government and people. Hence, inauguration ceremonies of new presidents are occasions for announcing policies that are to be implemented during the term in office. This is the way to reaffirm or to introduce some modification in the program on the strength of which a new president came to power.

Although in our country there is no real transfer of power but just the beginning of another term, the fact that the president continues in power should not exempt him from the responsibility of disclosing the main guidelines of his future actions in government. The historical juncture at which the country finds itself justifies such a disclosure. In the present not too encouraging economic situation, it would be interesting to know, in advance, the steps the national administration will take to overcome the crisis. The same applies to the political circumstances, because the decisions to be adopted would have a decisive influence on the nation's future.

In fact, if the nation will face pressing economic problems, the political questions to be faced will not be any easier. It may well be pointed out that the next presidential term will primarily have a political significance. The next presidential term should indeed set the political climate for the transition in years to come. Internal and external conditions will exert influence on that transition, setting it into a more definite course.

This period of inevitable political transition will leave behind a latent period of decisions, thus demanding that delimitations be spelled out. This is why this term is so important and raises the need for an official statement regarding the way in which the phenomenon of transition is viewed by the administration.

The real facts within our political process stake out these points of reference: the transition can be noticed through three modernizing forces at work within the national society; namely, the demand for a more reasonable exercise of authority, the need for a change of structures, and the aspiration for broader political participation. Putting it more simply, this means that the development of civic conscientiousness in our country calls for the readjustment of the branches of government to their mutual interdependence and their independent roles, in accordance with the laws and democratic principles. The more reasonable exercise of authority calls for the subordination of authority to the dictates of the laws, replacing the subordination of the laws to the will of the authority

On the other hand, the need for changing structures is becoming clearer as the country assimilates elements and values of the modern world. There is now a clearer idea about the role of the institutions. The overstretching of roles, the interference in other jurisdictions, the identification of private enterprises with state or national agencies or vice versa are distasteful. The people already have a better understanding of private and state institutions and, therefore, will demand from each institution more dedication to its specific functions.

It would be very unrealistic to believe that the Paraguayan people now have the same political mentality they had 20 years ago. Although the power structure has remained unchanged, the country's political and social conditions have changed. An important sector of the national community already demands broader political participation. Beyond the government's clientele, who display an active political militancy in the capital and main interior cities, there exists a large sector of the citizenry which, in different areas of activities, demands a more rational behavior from those in positions of power.

These three modernizing forces are already operating in the country and are giving impetus to the process of transition. Therefore, the political significance of the new presidential term which is to begin on 15 August requires statements of clarification from the government, because its task is also to clear the path toward the future.

FINANCE MINISTER TO VISIT MOSCOW IN SEPTEMBER

PY102310 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 10 Aug (TELAM) -- Peruvian Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor will leave for Moscow on 1 September to renegotiate Peru's debt with the USSR. The announcement was made by the official government weekly CARETAS, which noted that Peru's debt with the USSR totals \$126 million, representing Soviet military supplies to Peru.

CARETAS added that Finance Minister Rodriguez Pastor will propose a payment plan stretching over 8 and 1/2 years, but it added that the Soviet-Peruvian negotiations will be difficult since this debt has already been refinanced. CARETAS also reported that the following persons will accompany Rodriguez Pastor: Richard Webb, president of the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank, and Augusto Blacker Miller, president of the Peruvian Foreign Debt Committee.

RECOVERY PLAN FOR DISASTER AREAS APPROVED

PY121654 Paris AFP in Spanish 2145 GMT 10 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Lima, 10 Aug (AFP) -- It was reported in Lima today that the Peruvian Government has approved an investment of 800 million soles (around \$450 million) to put into operation a recovery plan for the areas affected by natural disasters -- rains, floods, mud slides, wind, and drought -- during the last 7 months.

Ignacio Basombrio, head of the National Planning Institute, said that the investment was approved during the last cabinet meeting and that 50 percent of it will come from reconstruction bonds. He added that the remainder will be financed from resources being negotiated abroad. The reconstruction bonds, already in force since last May, consist of a 10-percent withholding tax on salaries over 500,000 soles a month (about \$300) earned by workers in the public or private sectors of the nation.

Basombrio said that the work project, which will be under the administration of the National Development Institute in coordination with various ministries, will have the highest priority in accordance with instructions given by President Fernando Belaunde Terry. He went on to say that large resources will be allocated for highway reconstruction and recovery under the Ministry of Transport and Communications. He added that preference will also be given to the repair of the Talara oil installations in the northern part of the country, and to other programs related to housing, electrification, industry, health, and education.

This institute reported 3 days ago, after a detailed evaluation, that the damages caused by the natural disasters in 14 departments amount to about \$800 million.

FURTHER MATERIALS ON REAGAN-DE LA MADRID MEETING

Communique Issued

FL151847 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Joint communique on the meeting held between Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in La Paz, Baja California, on 14 August]

[Text] Invited by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, U.S. President Ronald Reagan paid an official visit on 14 August 1983. This meeting, held in La Paz, Baja California, was within the framework of the practice, already a tradition between the two countries, that permits the presidents of Mexico and the United States to meet periodically.

During their talks, the two presidents examined important bilateral matters of common interest to the two countries and strengthened the cordial bonds of friendship that they formed during their first meeting. The subjects discussed included economic, commercial, and financial matters as well as those regarding the border, the struggle against narcotics traffic, immigration, fishing, and economic and scientific cooperation.

The presidents also held a fruitful exchange on viewpoints regarding the Central American situation.

They reaffirmed their decision to strengthen even further the spirit of cooperation, understanding, and friendship that exists between the two countries.

The presidents examined the economic situations within their respective countries. President de la Madrid stated that his government's economic policy is directed at re-establishing the conditions for an accelerated national economic development that is just, balanced, and independent. President Reagan recognized Mexico's efforts to reorganize its economy and reaffirmed U.S. support and cooperation for the Mexican Government's efforts to solve its present problems.

The chiefs of state examined the problems caused by subsidies and compensatory taxes and agreed to solve them as soon as possible.

They also analyzed the problem of tuna fishing and expressed the hope that it will be solved as soon as possible. President Reagan, in expressing his appreciation and understanding of the matter, referred to the need for Mexico to solve its balance of payments problems and expressed the hope that a solution will be found very soon that will permit Mexico to resume normal trade. In this respect, President de la Madrid said that the growth in Mexico's exports will help invigorate trade between the two countries and provide the additional resources necessary to finance the development of the Mexican economy.

Referring to the usefulness of consultations on bilateral trade, they recognized that the joint commission on trade and exchange established by the two governments plays a useful role in the consolidation of bilateral trade.

Recognizing the importance of border exchanges, the two presidents agreed to continue their efforts to solve the problems faced by the border communities of the two countries.

With this in mind, they considered a proposal to establish, as part of the binational commission, a working group on border trade and economic affairs. They also examined the sanitation problems affecting the inhabitants living along the border between the two countries.

The two heads of state paid special attention to the cultural exchanges and scientific and technical cooperation between Mexico and the United States. They agreed on the need to promote these exchanges and the cooperation even further and to strengthen the existing programs and mechanisms in these areas.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction with the excellent results obtained in Mexican-U.S. cooperation to combat the production of and traffic in narcotics, and resolved to continue this for the benefit of their peoples.

In the same spirit, they resolved to intensify cooperation between the two governments to find more adequate solutions for the problems of environmental pollution along the border. They emphasized the fact that while they were meeting, a cooperation agreement was signed that provides the framework for cooperation regarding water, air, and soil pollution.

On Central America, the two presidents agreed on the need to restore peace and to prevent an even greater conflict in the area by promoting political dialogue and negotiations. President Reagan reaffirmed his determined support for the efforts being made by the Contadora Group. Both presidents also agreed on the importance of cooperating with the Central American countries to resolve the conflict peacefully. The presidents also reaffirmed their strong support for nonintervention and the free determination of peoples. They recognized the need for equitable economic and social development in the region.

The two presidents concluded their talks fully convinced that closer friendship and cooperation between Mexico and the United States is a common objective of their governments.

They reaffirmed their desire to hold periodic joint working meetings and meetings between other high-ranking officials of their respective governments.

President Reagan expressed his satisfaction with and gratitude for the hospitable welcome received from the Mexican Government and the authorities of Baja California. He extended a cordial invitation to President de la Madrid to visit the United States in the near future.

Havana on Results of Meeting

PA152040 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico and the United States maintained their divergent positions on the Central American conflict, and substantial differences on bilateral issues persisted as well.

This is the opinion of observers commenting on the meeting between Presidents Miguel de la Madrid and Ronald Reagan in La Paz, Mexico. While addressing Reagan, De la Madrid vigorously declared that the United States must agree to constructive talks so that the Central American crisis can be resolved peacefully. The U.S. President, however, insisted on defending his military-oriented policy in Central America and accused Nicaragua of being responsible for the region's problems.

At the end of the meeting, De la Madrid stressed that Mexico feels the Central American peoples should be free to make their own decisions and to choose their own destiny. In a clear reference to the United States, he said: No one can impose his ideas on others, or should believe that his values can be applied to other nations.

The only concrete results of the talks were the conclusion of an agreement on environmental protection along the two countries' border and the opening of a \$2-billion line of credit to be used by Mexico in purchasing U.S. products.

DE LA ESPRIELLA ASKS WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES

PA140250 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella has asked President Ronald Reagan to withdraw the U.S. forces that were sent to Central America to participate in joint military maneuvers with Honduras.

De la Espriella also criticized the U.S. Government for using the Canal Zone bases to send reconnaissance planes to areas of conflict in the region.

As for the Contadora Group's efforts, President de la Espriella said that at stake is not only the fate of Central America, but that of the entire world.

NATIONAL GUARD CHANGE OF COMMAND IMPLEMENTED

Overview of Ceremony

PA121705 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Aug 83

["News Analysis" by Mario Velasquez]

[Text] The transfer of command that will take place tomorrow at the National Guard Command is an event which, because of Panama's unique circumstances, extends beyond the military sphere to the political and institutional areas. The development is very important because, regardless of what each of us may think about the National Guard, it is the nerve center of the Panamanian state's stability, as well as the most solid, organized, and functional organization in this country. Furthermore, as a result of the political belligerence that the National Guard has traditionally had in Panama -- a belligerence that was intensified and institutionalized as of 1972 -- the National Guard is an entity that generates political developments.

This reality which we are now pointing out is not exclusive to Panama. The Western democracies -- not to mention the communist states, where the armed forces are a branch of the ruling party -- have learned to live with the fact that the armed forces long ago ceased to be mere spectators of the government and began to participate in it with the degree of power that reality demands of them and which constitutional organization itself accords to them. This new role for the armed forces does not mean that they are moving away from their historic tasks as defenders of the territorial integrity of states and guardians of the security of the associates in power, still less that they will replace civilian power or usurp the exercise of the people's sovereignty. It is within the framework of the law that the armed forces must adjust their action, and where a wide range of activities, presence, and influence can take place. This would contribute to the state's joint effort with regard to its task of administering and solving the community's problems.

However, other aspects give prominence to tomorrow's change of command ceremony. It is no secret that there has been some speculation about the military institution's unity and about the relations among the General Staff officers. Contrary to this speculation, tomorrow's change will take place within a framework of National Guard tranquillity and peace. In an action that carried a message, the National Guard's high-ranking officers last week participated in a long walk through the wild and symbolic places of Coclecito, a corner of the interior that is indissolubly connected with the history of the military institution.

I can understand the speculation connected with the National Guard, because we have said that the National Guard is an institution that generates political developments. Its stability, its unity, and its cohesion are constantly being evaluated by all political sectors in the country. In fact, the opposition has toyed with the possibility that there might be a fissure in the military sector. In the political game, any mistake by one player results in advantages for his opponents. I understand that game very well. The delicate aspect of this issue, however, is that the National Guard's stability entails the country's stability, which is much more important than the political parties' transitory interests, regardless of how legitimate and respectable those interests might be.

Amid the agitation of the Central American crisis, which has been made even more dramatic recently by the military coup that overthrew General Rios Montt in Guatemala, the ceremony that will take place tomorrow in the reverted area in Amador is an encouraging example. A military transfer of command will take place in accordance with the law. Ruben Dario Paredes, a Panamanian citizen who has spent over half his life in the garrisons, will turn over leadership of the National Guard in order to return to civilian life. Everything seems to indicate that politics will demand his presence in public debate and that his name will be submitted for judgment by his countrymen, who will have to decide on the future responsibilities that they might assign to him.

Another Panamanian -- Manuel Antonio Noriega -- will take over command of the National Guard at a time when his new post and his critical functions represent an enormous historic responsibility. Although General Noriega is a highly professional career militaryman, he shares a marked interest in politics with Torrijos, Paredes, and other officers of the generation of '68. This knowledge of local politics and of its men and parties is valuable for the new National Guard commander, who will have to lead the military institution along the stormy path of a heated electoral campaign, as well as to assure Panamanians that the military institution will guarantee a free and honest election, and that, under his leadership, the Armed Forces will continue to be an important element in the process of democratization of Panamanian political life.

It might be worth noting that most Panamanians feel that the National Guard is the principal redoubt of order and stability in Panama. Also, although they may disapprove of some of their actions, a majority of Panamanians have reached the conclusion that the National Guard not only guarantees their security but is also the custodian of the Panamanian people's right to freely express their political will in the May 1984 election. This was a commitment made by General Omar Torrijos, which General Paredes reiterated and adopted as his own. Now, it is not only a commitment, but also the task and civic duty of the new commander, Gen Noriega.

De la Espriella Speech

PA121840 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1413 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Speech by Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella at the ceremony marking transfer of the National Guard command from General Ruben Dario Paredes to General Manuel Antonio Noriega; at Fort Amador, Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] Today we once again confirm that Torrijos still lives, through the heritage he left in the custody of all Panamanians.

As a son and military follower of Omar, it is now General Manuel Antonio Noriega's turn, as commander in chief, to start a new phase of the plan drafted by Torrijos.

The National Guard has a well-known military and professional capacity that will continue to grow stronger, but our Armed Forces are designed to be a force for peace, committed to the progress and enhancement of our country.

The world is currently undergoing difficult times, and peace is being threatened. That is why, at critical moments, it is often necessary to pause along the way -- never to retreat, but to regain strength and set new goals. As long as we do this, we shall have the support of the people and of their Armed Forces.

At the present stage, one of the main missions is to complete the effective democratization of the country -- not only the political and institutional democratization in which we are engaged but also the full democratization of the economic, social, and cultural relations among all Panamanians, without giving up the national and popular advances already made. We must continue to strengthen this national process through new means conforming to the political norms of a pluralistic democracy.

The realization of new revolutionary advances must be achieved through the expression of the people's will, confirmed at the polls in free, honest, effective, and respected elections. The National Guard of Panama is identified with this, because our Armed Forces preach the need for pluralistic and peaceful coexistence among peoples and nations, without detriment to our national rights.

The members of our Armed Forces are aware of the need for political dialogue for the understanding among men, granting the highest value of human dignity and to the self-determination of the peoples. By working together, the people and the Armed Forces will continue to assume the responsibilities which the progress of our country demands in our advance to higher goals.

Paredes Retirement Speech

PA121900 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1610 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Speech by Panamanian General Ruben Dario Paredes at the ceremony marking the transfer of National Guard command to General Manuel Antonio Noriega; at Fort Amador, Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] Some tasks have yet to be accomplished and we cannot ignore this responsibility, especially now, so that the goals and ambitions of our people, and their leader -- the president of the republic -- are neither forgotten nor disregarded:

1. To continue guarding the democratization process by directly and effectively supporting the new Panamanian Constitution,
2. To honestly and impartially maintain order during and after the forthcoming elections.
3. To maintain good relations with the neighboring U.S. Armed Forces, [applause], without failing to exercise rights or to benefit from gains when Panama is entitled to them under the Torrijos-Carter treaties. [applause]

We want to remind the U.S. Armed Forces -- the traditional friends of Panama and the Panamanian Armed Forces -- that as long as they show respect for the small and the weak -- like us, this young Panamanian nation -- they will be strengthening the true foundations of democracy in America.

5. [number as heard] To continue improving our police department's efficiency in order to guarantee the safety of all people, because they deserve this.

6. To implement civic action programs and to aid the communities, especially those that most need support for development.

7. To maintain peace in the fatherland. Let no blood be spilled -- either by the Panamanians or by any other nationality -- because of blind misunderstandings, as is often the case.

8. This is very important, Panamanians: The National Guard respects and will continue to respect the recently approved democratic constitution. The National Guard, aware of its important mission, rejects any possibility of being used as a political launching pad, even by its outgoing commanders, since such a role gives rise to a vicious circle like that endured until recently by the sister republic of El Salvador.

I would like to present Brigadier General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the new commander of the National Guard, to all the men of this institution. [applause] I could say many things about Gen Noriega, but I will only mention what has impressed me most. Throughout his brilliant career, he has been guided by the principles of loyalty, friendship, and honor. [applause]

We will never forget the Mexican affair [referring to the attempt to overthrow the late General Omar Torrijos when he was on a visit to Mexico], when the quality of this man was tested.

I hope I am alive the day General Noriega has the great satisfaction that I have today, the satisfaction of delivering to the president of the republic a consolidated Armed Forces with a very high morale, in an enviable atmosphere of social balance and peace. Right now no one is in any Panamanian jail because of subversion or political problems.

I also hope that when Gen Noriega retires, in line with the vigorous renovation policy of the institution, he will be able to deliver, to whomever is president at that time, the country as we see it today. This is a challenge. However, I trust that with your support and that of the Panamanian people, he will accomplish this. [applause]

With the same zeal, I wish to say that I served under President de la Espriella with much satisfaction, not only because he is a great friend but also because he is a grand friend and a gentleman.

I wish to thank him, because 1 year ago, when I put the post of commander at his disposal, he showed trust in me. The staff did likewise, and they asked me to stay on another year; and I stayed. President De la Espriella and my staff companeros, who are here today, made evident their quality as human beings with that gesture.

In exercising the commanding post, particularly, I was perhaps too drastic on occasion. I would like to apologize to those who were hurt for any reason, to those who were offended by my behavior. I want to tell them that it has always been my concern and desire to keep the country the way it is today -- peaceful and without hatred. This was the reason for some hard procedures. I apologize. [applause]

At this solemn moment I also ask the political groups that are involved in a campaign backed by the Construction and exercising true constitutional and democratic principles of freedom to continue with their campaign, but not to engage in loud diatribes or insults, not to promote divisions in the family. Let us seek national unity.

Let the best win. The people will decide who are the best at the polls.

God bless our fatherland. Thank you. [applause]

Noriega Inaugural Speech

PA122137 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1633 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Speech by Panamanian Brigadier General Manuel Antonio Noriega, new commander in chief of the Panamanian National Guard, at the transfer of command ceremony; at Fort Amador, Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] Gentlemen, we are attending a transfer of military command which is the first of its kind. It is appropriate to speak of the importance of this transfer of command. In a permanent institution like the Armed Forces, many events take place as part of its normal functions. Among these are the internal rotation of personnel and replacement of unit chiefs, and also the retirement of men and promotion of officers.

Nevertheless, when a change in the Armed Forces high command -- within the bounds of institutional continuity -- occurs, the event is very important. The event is taking place now, as Commander in Chief Ruben Dario Paredes carries out an administrative role based on the constitutional mandate of the famous and dear Article 12. I must apologize to all our journalist friends and news representatives who had asked me to grant them a political interview. I include even those who sought in me the other side of the coin, or the other military officer. There is no other, only the same individual. [applause]

Gentlemen, I present to you the command team, those we can say will be the command lions: Roberto Diaz Herrera [applause], chief of staff, with who I share bonds that go beyond this profession, beyond having studied in the same nation, even much beyond Torrijism. I share with Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera bonds that go beyond the weapons we have shared and the destiny they will have. [applause]

Colonel Marcos Justines Fernandez, assistant chief of staff, [applause] first a soldier, then a diplomat, and today a military technician who safeguards the structural and economic organization of our institution. [applause]

Colonel Angel Mina Justiniani, [applause] a mature, serious man with noble sentiments and thoughts. Yesterday he was promoted under General Paredes' instructions. [applause]

Elias Castillo Figueroa, the cavalry soldier, [applause] with solid strategic concepts. [applause]

Julian Melo Borbua, [applause] the quick-witted officer of practical experience. [applause]

Matias Ow Young, [applause] who entered the National Guard under the same conditions we did, when there was no budget for officers. And we learned to wait and live with what salary we did receive. [applause]

Lieutenant Colonel (Luis) Thurber, another serious, mature man who had a beautiful record while working in Colon and San Blas. [applause]

Alberto and Lorenzo Purcell. [prolonged applause] The applause says it all. Two tremendous aviator commanders with dignity and humanism. [applause]

Today, at this ceremony, we end a cycle and phase of the National Guard. It has ended beautifully today, with the words of our Commander Paredes.

Today, we begin another era, whose objectives and goals set our sights toward the year 2,000 and the total control of the Panama Canal's defense, [applause and shouts] to ensure through democratic and free methods that this waterway remains active and neutral, open to all flags of the world. For this we must quicken our step and recover the terrain lost when national circumstances forced us to interrupt constitutional order in 1968.

Therefore, beginning today, and in this military ceremony, we give the marching orders to our new national defense forces. [applause] This armed contingent will exert itself to structure its groups based on a new organizational chart, according to the time and space in which we live. They will act as the nation's defensive forces, because defense is development, development is welfare, and welfare is peace. [applause]

The national defense forces will be at the people's service, contributing to the country's development, at the service and command of the country's highest leader, the president. [applause]

These national defense forces will continue under the subordination of this president and the next president. [applause] And this is because we want peace, and this is what our people and their society want; but not the peace of tombs, or the peace of the strongest over the weakest. Our society, the Panamanian people, want to live in Christian peace, a legacy which we cannot afford to lose, and which we will defend at all cost. [applause] Today I, as a Christian, offer peace...peace...peace! [applause]

However, peace is a two-way street. Peace will be maintained as long as everyone's rights are respected. [applause] All Panamanians, regardless of political differences, should understand clearly that we must all prevent the chaos and destruction that exist in neighboring countries. Each Panamanian should know that there is not victory or profit through violence and death among brothers. This results only in sorrow and tragedy, backwardness and fear, anguish and destruction. This is the tragic condition of states and nations where dialogue and peaceful solutions were ignored, where the elements of poverty, illiteracy, and sickness were allowed to prosper. Panamanian society is fearful and apprehensive about the violence that prevails in the region to which we belong geographically, where we abide. Panamanian society, at all social levels, is afraid.

We, the national defense forces, cannot be indifferent, geopolitically speaking, to the Central American tragedy. We cannot be mere spectators in this drama. We cannot deny that there is a spiral of violence with a ripple effect. Neither can we overlook the clashes that exist between the so-called hostile triangles and the security triangle. [applause]

Your Excellency Ricardo de la Espriella, president of the republic: The contingent that will parade before this platform in a few minutes represents, together with their families, 100,000 men of the Armed Forces who march to their garrisons with heads held high and victorious steps. [applause]

I am ready, as a representative of this force, to respect the republic's Constitution and law. We will be in our barracks, as groups opposed to the regime demand with their outcries. However, it would be an unacceptable, hypocritical pretention to say that, having played an important role in our national life, this force would remain idle in the task of achieving reconciliation among Panamanians. The country's panorama is not at all bright. Future prospects are gloomy, but we must have faith, and we do have faith in men and women who, throughout their public life, have shown genuine love for their fatherland and a sincere desire to serve it. To these men and women, in particular, and to all my fellow countrymen in general, I solemnly say that in this historical moment, so full of risks, challenges, and promises, on behalf of this institution, I reaffirm our unbending determination to assist -- within the proper framework of our activities -- in the successful completion of the democratization process currently in progress in our country. In this sense, our Armed Forces, above political passions and sectarian interests, proclaim with conviction that, without overstepping bounds, they will guarantee the realization of the electoral process that will culminate in the 1984 elections. This institution will guarantee respect for the people's will, for freedom of action and expression, ensuring that the interests and honor of other Panamanians are not damaged and that when democratization is realized, those who have legally won their credentials will receive them. This is a pledge to which the Armed Forces will be faithful.

As of today, General Paredes will conduct his efforts and activities as a civilian, but we are sure that the links he forged with the National Guard will never become undone in his heart or in our hearts. Therefore, we say to General Paredes: This is your institution, and we are your companeros. [applause] His retirement marks the end of his military role, but not the end of our affection for and appreciation of him.

Ruben, today we give you to your friends, the people! [applause]

NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS ANNOUNCED

PA130500 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 Aug 83 p 1-A

[Excerpt] The Information and Public Relations Directorate of the Panamanian National Guard reported to MATUTINO last night promotions and transfers effected in yesterday's Order of the Day.

Deputy Chief of Staff Colonel Roberto Díaz Herrera has been promoted to chief of staff; Colonel Marcos Justines Fernandez is the new deputy chief of staff and G-4; Major Eros Ramiro Cal has been promoted to lieutenant colonel and G-1 of the staff; Lieutenant Colonel Julio Ow Young, inspector of military zones, has been transferred to G-2 of the staff.

COSTA RICACONGRESSMAN SHANNON MEETS WITH MONGE, ZAMORA

PA151651 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] U.S. Congressman James M. Shannon of Massachusetts yesterday met with Foreign Minister Fernando Volio to exchange viewpoints concerning the Central American situation. Shannon believes it is necessary to support the development of democracy in Central America in order to prevent these territories near the United States from falling prey to communism.

Shannon and Senator Paul E. Tsongas also met with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge to learn his views on the regional situation. Shannon and Tsongas are Democrats who openly oppose U.S. President Ronald Reagan's foreign policy and their mission is to learn first hand what is really going on in Central America.

James Shannon arrived from El Salvador on the same commercial flight as rebel leader Ruben Zamora. Shannon spoke for approximately 30 minutes with Zamora, who represents the FMLN-FDR political and international relations commission. According to Shannon, the subjects discussed were the talks with U.S. Ambassador Richard Stone and the need to achieve a peaceful solution to the regional conflict.

Shannon did not provide further details about his talk with the Salvadoran rebel leader, who apparently came to San Jose to meet with representatives of other revolutionary groups.

Volio Receives Shannon

PA152110 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Even though there are no major problems with the Nicaraguan Government, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio warned U.S. Congressman James Shannon yesterday about Costa Rica's need for aid from allied democracies. The nature of the Nicaraguan regime worries us even more than their Army does, because their expansionistic spirit represents a threat to countries in the region, the Costa Rican foreign minister said.

What is really taking place in Central America is a clear confrontation between leftist and rightist totalitarianism, so it is urgent that we receive support from other democracies like the United States, Volio Jimenez added. Congressman James Shannon and Senator Paul Tsongas arrived yesterday for a visit of a few hours.

Foreign Minister Fernando Volio pointed out that we are not McCarthyites and that we will not close our eyes or lower our guard while defending our democracy and our system of liberty and peace. It is necessary to make it clear that our government is not naive; we realize that there are those who are interested in destabilizing Costa Rican democracy and in installing a Marxist-Leninist regime in Central America, he said. Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism is conducting an open offensive and wants to take the area's countries by force. Thus, the Costa Rican Government, while struggling to improve the economic situation and to promote the nation's social and economic welfare, must also stop its enemies, who want to dominate the Costa Ricans, expose them to the risks of destabilization, and take power by force.

ANTI-SANDINISTS ACCUSED OF CRIMES NEAR BORDER

PA151605 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Costa Rican residents of the canton of San Jose de Upala, on the border with Nicaragua, have charged that Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have carried out acts of terrorism and harassment against local townspeople. This charge was made to Johnny Campos, Costa Rican deputy security minister, who visited the town.

According to the reports, groups of former Somozist guardsmen in the Costa Rican border region operate with impunity, looting, terrorizing, and killing the local people.

BRIEFS

INFLATION DROPS -- According to official figures, the inflation rate for July 1983 is 17 percent, which represents a 60 percent drop compared with the 77 percent rate of inflation in July of 1982. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 31 Jul 83 p 3 PA]

EL SALVADORARMY DENIES MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH GUATEMALA

PA160331 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0004 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Army today denied the existence of a military agreement with the Guatemalan Army under which El Salvador would deliver arms in exchange for the training of Salvadoran soldiers in Guatemala.

The Press Committee of the Armed Forces (COPREFA) reported today that "no military co-operation agreement exists or has existed between the Salvadoran Army and the Guatemalan Army," and described as "false" rumors to the contrary that have been disseminated.

According to reports published in Guatemala and denied here, El Salvador would supply light weapons and ammunition from the stocks provided by the United States in exchange for counterinsurgency training for members of the Salvadoran Army by Guatemalan experts.

Meanwhile, COPREFA has also reported the discovery of an arsenal and communications equipment in a safehouse used by the Salvadoran rebels, west of the capital.

The army found seven 35-mm [as received] machine pistols with 34 ammunition clips, 3,241 45-mm [as received] cartridges, and nearly 500 shotgun shells. The official note added that they also found two projectors, two radios, and a receiver-transmitter.

ARMED FORCES TIGHTEN SECURITY AS AMNESTY ENDS

PA152205 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] The current amnesty and citizens rehabilitation law expires at midnight tonight. There have, however, been several requests from individuals and political circles that another extension be granted, since a large number of people in the past 3 days have requested amnesty.

In the past 2 days, many rebels and members of the FMLN's rank and file have abandoned the extremist group to take refuge under the amnesty law. There have been mass surrenders in San Miguel, Suchitoto, Usulután, Cojutepeque, Santa Ana, La Unión, Gotera, and many other places.

Meanwhile, we were told yesterday that the Army is continuing its combing operations in Morazan, San Miguel, Usulután, San Vicente, Cuscatlán, Cabanas, and Chalatenango.

In response to rebel threats to step up violence, the Army is increasing its patrols in the rural and urban sectors of San Salvador and other important cities. We were also told that highways throughout the country are being patrolled by military and security forces, although extremists who rob drivers and passengers of money and jewelry continue to appear on the highway to Suchitoto.

D'Aubuisson on Amnesty

PA160323 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Aug 83

["Portion" of interview with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly, by journalist Raul Beltran Bonilla on 15 August; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Beltran] My first question is whether any institutions or individuals have formally requested that the amnesty, which ends at midnight tonight, be extended by the congress.

[D'Aubuisson] No, at this point we know of no such requests for an extension, which would have to come through the Executive Branch at the request of the Peace Commission. So far we have received nothing. We would have had to hold a legislative session today, and we would have held sessions until Friday, which is why I believe that there will be no extension of the amnesty law.

[Beltran] Major, in these 90 days, the amnesty commission has said that some 1,050 or 1,100 members of the rank and file, militiamen, and fighters of the Salvadoran guerrillas have accepted the benefits of the law. Could you give us your opinion as to whether this law has been truly effective and whether it has produced the results that the Salvadoran political leaders expected?

[D'Aubuisson] I think that this has been a very positive law and that its results have been, perhaps, even greater than expected. We know that the procedure is difficult. These men who have taken up arms do not simply set aside their weapons just like that, but the law has still been very positive. Meanwhile, we have also demonstrated the good intentions or the good will that prevails in the government, reflecting the Salvadoran people's desire that a solution be found to the violence that we have been experiencing.

[Beltran] To touch on another subject, Major, the debate, if we can call it that, will begin here today at the Constituent Assembly on the development of the new constitution. It has been said that each party has separately studied the proposals which were made by various organizations and citizens some 2 weeks ago. Do you believe that this will delay the date established for the completion of the new constitution, which had been unofficially announced as 15 September, for a much longer time?

[D'Aubuisson] It was not an official announcement. Remember that even when it is completed, it will not go into effect until 8 days after it is published. No, I do not think that the proposals we have received will delay us; on the contrary, they might hasten our work, because there have been some very concrete proposals that the deputies, when they think it advisable, could present on certain articles in the draft constitution. These are definite and well-thought-out proposals, which I think will reduce the time. We hope to finish the constitution in August or the first week in September.

[Beltran] Major, to conclude, let us talk a little about your party, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. Finishing the constitution in September will, of course, be the basic starting point for the selection and designation of presidential candidates by the various parties. What is your position in ARENA? It has been said that there are some hopefuls who want to compete with you for that nomination.

[D'Aubuisson] We do not know of any hopefuls. The party is well-organized and disciplined and no one goes about trying to promote his own candidacy. Of course, after the constitution has been completed, I will try, as a deputy, to request leave without pay in order to dedicate more time to the party's political activities, and we will be holding our general assembly at the end of September.

[Beltran] Major, will you seek the presidential candidacy of the ARENA party?

[D'Aubuisson] I have not yet decided; I repeat, the general assembly of the party will consider this matter and make the decision.

FMLN Criticizes Amnesty

PA160350 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] FMLN guerrillas have occupied Chinameca in San Miguel Department after inflicting several casualties on the garrison that was guarding the town.

The rebels attacked Army troops in the area of Lake Suchitlan, near the important 5 November and Cerron Grande hydroelectric plants.

The FMLN also charged that the political amnesty decreed by the Salvadoran regime is a Yankee imperialist plot and said that the guerrilla forces will not lay down their weapons.

The amnesty was decreed by the so-called Constituent Assembly last 15 May and should have expired 2 months later; however, it was extended until today, reportedly to allow those guerrillas who had not accepted it to do so.

ARMED FORCES DISCIPLINARY MEASURES REPORTED

PA130352 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] So far this year, the Defense Ministry has imposed penalties on one officer and on 201 other members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, including troops and members of the public security bodies, for violation of military laws and regulations, as well as laws of the republic, according to General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova.

The crimes and violations that prompted the penalties were manslaughter, rape, assault, and theft. Those involved were discharged and consigned to the proper legal and military authorities. Gen Vides Casanova asserted that studies have been carried out on procedures for military operations. These studies have several applications, including the achievement of a basic respect for laws, moral principles, and human rights.

FMLN COMMUNIQUE CITES SERIES OF ACTIONS

PA140423 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Excerpt] In a communique received by YSU, guerrilla organizations that make up the FMLN have claimed responsibility for a series of actions throughout the country.

The first such action is the placement of a bomb at the CASA banking agency, situated in the (Miralvalle) neighborhood, where one guard was killed and two others wounded.

They also claim credit for the explosion at a CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] substation in Milingo canton, in Apopa, and for the takeover of the Montreal neighborhood in Cuscatancingo, where they held a meeting.

They also report on their activities in other parts of the country, such as the downing of an A-37 plane on San Pedro Hill, in San Vicente Department.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON CLASHES IN SAN VICENTE

PA150246 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] The imperialistic CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction of Affected Areas] plan has suffered defeats in the Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front. From San Vicente Department we have received a summary of the latest defeats inflicted on the imperialistic CONARA plan on that warfront.

At least 50 of the dictatorship's soldiers have been killed or wounded in the last few days in clashes between FMLN revolutionary forces and the forces of the criminal dictatorship.

In the early hours of 7 August, the enemy entered areas under our control through San Sebastian and immediately encountered our guerrilla columns. Intense fighting took place and continued into the following day. The enemy suffered 17 dead or injured in these clashes. They also lost an M-79 grenade launcher and other military supplies.

A helicopter belonging to the dictatorship that was attempting to cover the enemy's retreat in San Sebastian was hit by our revolutionary fire, and withdrew [passage indistinct] by the dictatorship are the following: The puppet army suffered approximately 50 dead and injured, a damaged helicopter, and the loss of ammunition and war supplies.

That is how our revolutionary army has defeated the imperialist plans. This is how we inflict blows on the CONARA plan. From the Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front, we have received this report from Commander Camilo.

POWER LINES DESTROYED; METAPAN WITHOUT ELECTRICITY

PA150415 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] From Santa Ana Department, on the Feliciano Ama Western Front, our companeros report:

FMLN sapper squads (?destroyed) electrical posts on the highway which leads from (Ajoyo) to Santa Ana, leaving the city of Metapan without electrical power.

This action by our companeros on the Feliciano Ama Western Front took place at 2100 on 9 August, when guerrilla squads evaded detection by the troops of the fascist dictatorship and proceeded to dynamite the five electrical posts.

This report was sent from the Western Front by Companero Fidel.

We send our revolutionary greetings to that heroic front. The temporary darkness of the present will be the light of tomorrow's freedom.

GUATEMALAHAVANA ON SENATOR WILSON'S MEETING WITH MEJIA

FL151300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] We have learned from Guatemala that U.S. Senator Peter Wilson has announced that he will support the resumption of U.S. military aid to Guatemala's military government.

Senator Peter Wilson met with the new Guatemalan gorilla, General Mejia, and emphasized to the press that the possibility exists for military cooperation among the governments of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and the United States as a means of confronting the Central American crisis.

OFFICIAL STRESSES CONTINUITY OF GOALS

PA121835 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Colonel Pablo Nuila Hub, public relations secretary of the presidency, has reported on how the government will work. He said:

[Begin recording] The 23 March events were a military action, and the Army was in power. What has now taken place is a change of power in the top military echelons. Therefore, established plans and the democratic opening continue as scheduled. Economic reactivation plans will go forward. The fact that there may be some review does not mean there will be changes. The 14 basic government points are our objectives; the goals established by General Efraim Rios Montt are still in effect, they are still valid. It has been the aim of the Army to achieve these goals, not a man with absolute power. Therefore, we cannot have a new government plan, because one already exists. [end recording]

Asked about a possible date for elections, Colonel Nuila Hub replied:

[Begin recording] [Nuila] It would be desirable, and it is our wish, to step up the process of returning to constitutionality. However, the last word is not up to the Army of General Mejia Victores; it is up to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. They will be the ones to approve or reject our leader's wishes.

[Unidentified journalist] Are any talks with the political parties to be held this week?

[Nuila] No talks have been scheduled for this week.

[Journalist] Any private talks?

[Nuila] [laughs] I do not believe so.

[Journalist] Are there any plans to meet with the political parties?

[Nuila] After the Supreme Electoral Tribunal holds its discussion with General Mejia, who is waiting to meet with them, he can then continue with the same schedule or even move it forward.

[Journalist] Colonel, concerning the Contadora Group, it seems there was some sort of misinterpretation. In his speech, General Mejia Victores said he supported the group, and journalists misinterpreted this. What is the truth regarding General Mejia Victores' support for the Contadora Group?

[Nuila] I suggest that you read the speech he delivered when he assumed... when he was relieved into... power. [as received] You will find the details there.

[Journalist] [Word indistinct] received by them?

[Nuila] They will send a reply.

[Journalist] When do you think they will send a reply?

[Nuila] As soon as they grant him an audience. [end recording]

CLARIFICATION OF MEJIA COMMENT ON CONTADORA SOUGHT

PA140325 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Editorial: "Modern Communications Systems: A Very Delicate Thing"]

[Text] The incredible, astounding power of modern social communications media, which work in a seemingly magical manner, is increasingly being confirmed with awe. A recent incident exemplifies this. In one of his first meetings with national and foreign newsmen, the new head of state made two or three short, curt, emphatic remarks that went around the world almost immediately, giving rise to considerable conjecture in international political media.

These statements can more or less be summed up in this way: The Contadora Group has nothing to do in Guatemala, and U.S. policy toward Central America is the very best. It is more than probable -- and this is how we see it -- that in view of the torrent of questions on the most diverse topics, the flashes and the blinding spotlights, a ranking official might momentarily lose control and say something totally off the top of his head and outside of political guidelines. But the truth is that those statements, attributed to General Mejia Victores, immediately gave rise to the belief that Guatemala was abandoning its policy of neutrality toward the conflicts that are now shaking the isthmus, that it had dismissed the peace efforts being undertaken by the governments of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama -- all members of the Contadora Group -- and that the Guatemalan regime would henceforth align itself directly with President Reagan's policy. This is how experienced world analysts and observers interpreted it, according to international dispatches. This warrants a clear, categorical correction or clarification to prevent misinterpretation or misunderstanding, because we are dealing here with a situation that is serious for all the countries of Central America.

PR, FUR CALL OFF CONFERENCE; PDC NOTES RUMORS

PA130408 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] The leaders of the Revolutionary Party [PR] and the United Revolutionary Front [FUR] postponed without prior warning their press conference scheduled for 1500 yesterday, during which they were to release a statement of unity and outline their position on the change of government.

Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], expressed concern over the wave of rumors that have been spreading during the last few days, especially rumors of the resurgence of paramilitary groups, which have generated fear among the people. Cerezo Arevalo said it would be advisable for General Mejia Victores to dispel these rumors, for if they were true it would be lamentable and would represent further danger to the lives of Guatemalans. The PDC secretary general spoke of the great harm such groups have caused the leaders and political parties, and recommended that the head of state clarify these rumors.

HAVANA CITES EGP, FAR STATEMENTS ON MEJIA

PA132347 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] The Poor People's Guerrilla Army, EGP, declared in a communique issued in Mexico that the United States will have a useful ally in General Oscar Mejia, the new head of the Guatemalan regime.

In its communique, the EGP, a guerrilla organization, says that Mejia's goal is to align himself with the Reagan administration's interventionist campaign against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran and Guatemalan revolutionary movements. The communique adds that the new military regime is in a situation similar to that of the one which it ousted, in that it can neither solve the political and economic crisis nor defeat the rebels, despite the U.S. aid that it is receiving in every area, including the military sector.

Meanwhile, the Rebel Armed Forces, FAR, another Guatemalan guerrilla organization, said that Gen Mejia's primary objective is to destroy the revolutionary organizations and to bring the Honduran and Salvadoran regimes into the Reagan administration's warmongering adventure in Central America.

NICARAGUAFOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS AIR VIOLATION

PA160424 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reported today that a Honduran Air Force plane violated Nicaragua's airspace yesterday in the regions of San Pedro de Potrero Grande, Cinco Pinos, and Santo Tomas de Nance, in Chinandega Department.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Honduran Government today protesting the violation committed at 1030 yesterday by a twin-engined, silver airplane, which later returned to Honduras. At the same time, the Nicaraguan protest points out that at 2000 last night, Honduran Army troops launched a 30-minute attack with various caliber rifles on the Las Manos border post. The EPS [Sandinist People's Army] border guards, who did not respond to this new act of aggression, suffered no casualties.

ORTEGA COMMENTS ON NEED TO DEFEND REVOLUTION

PA150405 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has said that the Sandinist revolution must be defended both militarily and economically, adding that the situation will become even more complex and difficult in the next few weeks.

At a government meeting in the city of Matagalpa, Daniel Ortega said that Nicaragua is already facing a new military attack by the U.S. Government, implemented through the former Somozist guards and the forces loyal to the traitor Eden Pastora.

He said that the presence of U.S. warships in Central America is directed against the efforts of the Contadora Group, despite its advances. Daniel Ortega said that the possibility of a direct U.S. military intervention in El Salvador, where the guerrillas are defeating the army, cannot be dismissed.

Meanwhile, Government Junta Member Sergio Ramirez said that Nicaragua expects an economic growth rate of 3.4 percent this year, despite the negative effects of a drought that damaged the most important crops and of the counterrevolutionary attacks launched from Honduras and supported by the United States.

Further Report

PA152031 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and the Cabinet of State held a working session to review the economic and political problems which Nicaragua has encountered during the first 6 months of this year. At a cabinet session held at the La Cartuja Pastoral Diocesan Center in Matagalpa Department last weekend, Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado stressed that, despite the imperialist aggression, Nicaragua will achieve an economic growth rate of 3.4 percent this year. He indicated that the state investment will amount to some 1.7 billion cordobas per year and that state expenditures will exceed the original budget by 30 percent.

For his part, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Government Junta, told the officials that they must be more self-critical if they are to improve administrative activities. He also told them that they must put an end to triumphant reports, which confuse the people, and warned that the people must frankly be told about our problems.

Commenting on the current situation, Ortega said that no changes are foreseen in the political-military situation and that imperialist aggression is expected to intensify in the next few weeks.

The Sandinist leader urged the officials to search for a new domestic economic order that will achieve a balance in the people's standard of living, since it is not possible to take positive jumps due to the economic and military aggression against our country.

As for the international scene, Ortega said that although the Contadora Group's peace efforts have made some progress, this progress has crashed up against the Reagan administration's stand, which, in practice and in fact, accomplishes the very opposite of what it proposes, going as far as to weaken the mission pursued by special envoy Richard Stone, who recently visited Nicaragua.

'FACE THE PEOPLE' PROGRAM COVERS NATIONAL DEFENSE

PA142104 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Excerpts] The 'Face the People' program is being carried live today from the Elvis Diaz National Institute. The participants are Daniel Ortega Saavedra, junta coordinator; Sergio Ramirez Mercado, junta member; Leticia Herrera, secretary general of the Sandinist Defense Committee [CDS]; Carlos Tunnerman, education minister; Ivan Garcia, chief of the national section of the Sandinist People's Militias [MPS]; Captain Federico Cerda, chief of organization and mobilization for the general staff [not further specified]; Captain Victor Moreno, civil defense chief of staff; Joaquín Solís Piura, president of the National Council for Higher Education; Lourdes Giron, of the FSLN regional committee; Lily Soto, secretary general of the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists; Freddy Cruz, secretary general of the Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations; Lucio Jimenez, secretary general of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers; Edgardo Garcia, secretary general of the Association of Agricultural Workers; Glenda Monterrey, secretary general of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women [AMNLAE]; Mercedes Mejia, also of AMNLAE; Jose Ramon Alvarez, member of the executive committee of the 19 July Sandinist Youth; and Barney Juarez, from the national executive committee of ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers]; meeting with members of the CDS executive committees of Managua, on the topic of the national defense of the Sandinist People's Revolution:

[Begin relay] [Daniel Ortega] We are facing aggression. We all know the source of that aggression. I am sure that every Nicaraguan citizen was moved by the picture in today's papers of the girl who was shot by the Somozist counterrevolutionaries. Who, in fact, shot that girl and who murdered the 12 people who were traveling in a vehicle in the Jinotega sector? Who fired at them? The perpetrators of these crimes are the former Somozist guardsmen, but it is the U.S. Government that is actually pulling the trigger.

This meeting is important, because we can discuss the nation's defense and other matters of concern to you.

We are being forced to invest our human and material resources in a great effort for our national defense, which imposes limitations in many other areas, including production, consumption, and supply.

Supply is a part of our defense. The enemy works against our economy in order to affect supply and, resultingly, the people's consumption, which incites discontent against the revolution. A commission has been organized, led by Planning Minister Henry Ruiz, to make recommendations after consulting the sectors that have been affected.

We must try to improve production conditions despite our current difficulties, while taking the activities of the counterrevolutionary bands and the economic, military, and political attacks into account. We are committed to our search for formulas that will help us produce more, particularly of our farm export products -- cotton, coffee, and meat, which produce capital -- and of basic grains, required for the people's nutrition.

[Unidentified speaker] I represent the residents of the Santa Rosa district. We are somewhat confused and would like an explanation of the territorial defense battalion and the reserve military service.

[Ivan Garcia] The military service law establishes in one of its final articles that the MPS will continue to be strictly voluntary, and will not be subject to the criteria contained in the military service law.

As for structuring the Sandinist People's Militias on a territorial basis, there are chiefly two reasons for this: First, to make the MPS structure coincide with the political-administrative divisions of our country; that is, the political division of the FSLN and of the various branches of the Government of National Reconstruction. Second, one of the fundamental factors is that through the territorial reorganization of the MPS, we are taking an important step forward in its organization.

[Question indistinct]

[Sergio Ramirez] The companera is right in expressing her concerns. However, there are things the revolution could not have improvised from the beginning. The Patriotic Military Service Bill was the product of much meditation and profound study. There are other bills just like the Patriotic Military Service Bill which the revolution could not immediately implement and which were not submitted for debate until now. For example, the political parties bill, which the State Council is now debating 4 years after the revolutionary victory.

[Question] Companeros of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, ministers, commanders, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of San Luis neighborhood, I wish to make a brotherly observation. For a long time, we have been trying to improve the communications services. I am speaking on behalf of the companeros in the various fronts.

[Daniel Ortega] The companero's concern about the lack of effective mechanisms of communication is justified: mechanisms that permit our companeros to receive the mail sent by their parents and vice versa; mechanisms that do not lose it -- as happens in some cases -- or deliver mail several months after it is sent.

The effort, particularly during the last few months, has been truly extraordinary.

Thousands of Nicaraguans -- workers, students, professionals, and others -- have been mobilized for the military defense of the revolution. Several thousand Nicaraguans have been mobilized. This explains why the counterrevolutionaries have been defeated every time they have tried to enter our territory and every time they have tried to occupy sites and villages along our border. The counterrevolutionaries armed and supported by the United States number several thousand -- approximately 7,000, we believe.

We are facing several thousand guardsmen on the northern border and several hundred on the southern border -- including the traitor, who has managed to convince some persons, though few, to be sure, in the San Juan River area. Therefore, in the south we have another counterrevolutionary front. All these people in the north and the south are well armed. By whom? By the United States. For if the United States left them alone, the Somozist guardsmen and the traitor Pastora, confronted by the power of the people at this moment -- and we are not using all the people's power -- could not resist us a single day. We would crush them immediately. What sustains them is the support of the United States and the Honduran Army, a U.S. instrument of aggression.

[Question] We have two questions. We know that there is mandatory military service in the United States, and that they are trained to intervene militarily in countries that struggle for self-determination. We also know that in the United States, the training their people receive is not in defending their homeland, but in intervening in countries that struggle for liberation and self-determination. What measures will our government take toward those who want to avail themselves of this military service to create problems for the revolution? Also, we want to know if young priests will be drafted?

[Sergio Ramirez Mercado] The companero unfortunately had to repeat his question several times because of some problems with the equipment. He was asking about the patriotic military service. We said previously that this law makes no exception for social or economic reasons. It encompasses all Nicaraguans, regardless of their social or economic situation. Nevertheless, we must state this law is also eminently political. It was created to force anyone to defend Nicaragua and the revolution. In other countries, and we do not have to go far -- in Honduras, for example, there is a so-called mandatory military service that authorizes the Army to cordon off the exit door of a theater any night and to start grabbing all the young men who come out, throwing them into trucks...Thus, they are forced to participate in voluntary military service. [laughter]

Those of us who have visited or lived for some time in Tegucigalpa and went to the movies are aware that there are seldom any young people in the theaters. This is not the kind of military service we are establishing in Nicaragua. We have created a law to regulate military service because it helps us to rationalize and organize the way in which Nicaraguans will participate in the patriotic military service.

However, because of the conditions in which we live -- the fact that we are facing imperialism and that we are withstanding constant aggression from the Reagan administration -- anyone with minimal intelligence understands that defending the homeland is a patriotic duty that no Nicaraguan who feels he is really a Nicaraguan will ever reject.

[Phil McMann, representative of a U.S. religious group] We realize that you are facing a difficult struggle. It is difficult because of our government's policy.

But I want to assure you that there are a great many people in the United States, such as those present here, who are struggling to change this policy. You are not alone. [applause]

[Daniel Ortega] You are aware that the U.S. Government has organized what it calls task forces. It has trained and organized these task forces militarily. We estimate that one easily represents a battalion, as a military force. [passage indistinct] In addition, the U.S. citizens have decided to organize their own task forces to help the Nicaraguans. That is why the companero has spoken about their solidarity. [applause] [end relay]

FOREIGN MINISTER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO INTERVIEWED

DW151341 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 15 Aug 83 p 95

[DER SPIEGEL interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto -- date and place not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr Foreign Minister, the current Central American crisis is actually beneficial in some respects to Nicaragua's Sandinist government. A country threatened from the outside forgets about its domestic contradictions and difficulties.

D'Escoto: I am not so sure things can be seen like this. The Nicaraguan people just went through a war and prior to that, a 70-year nightmare of oppression and U.S. invasions. Now the people want to enjoy the achievements of the revolution. However, fields in the north are once again being devastated and farmers cannot harvest their crops. Besides, the United States succeeded in halting part of the development aid allotted to us. All this burdens the peoples' lives.

SPIEGEL: But it has not infuriated them against the government?

D'Escoto: That is correct. The greater the foreign aggression, the more the people rally around the leadership. If a family is attacked, it unites.

SPIEGEL: Who does the family feel is threatening them more: the U.S. Navy off its coasts or the "Contras" who are invading Nicaragua mostly from the north?

D'Escoto: The "Contras" actually are more than just a threat. They are a reality. We would be able to cope with them in the foreseeable future if the United States withdrew its support. The biggest problem is that the United States is waging war against us. It is fighting against us with the help of the "Contras." In addition, the Americans are preparing to involve the Honduran Army, and we also have to take seriously the U.S. Navy operating off our coasts.

SPIEGEL: Do you really believe that the leathernecks will land?

D'Escoto: We must not only be ready to ward off the "Contras" and to resist a possible Honduran invasion, but we must also be prepared for the possibility of an American invasion.

SPIEGEL: Is this why you are introducing compulsory military service?

D'Escoto: Yes. However, I want to add that this measure is only to make the recruiting process more orderly. We have never lacked volunteers. Compulsory military service also does not necessarily mean that we will have more soldiers available. However, our defense readiness will be strengthened.

SPIEGEL: Thank goodness that diplomats are busy while all sides are preparing themselves for combat. Reagan's special envoy Richard Stone is touring the area and Henry Kissinger announced that he will come to Nicaragua. What do you think of the U.S. diplomatic efforts?

D'Escoto: The U.S. diplomatic efforts are a ruse, for if the Americans really were interested in a diplomatic solution they would not have sent their Navy.

SPIEGEL: The Americans are saying that diplomatic and military actions must not be seen separately.

D'Escoto: They sent the Navy as a response to the flexibility we have shown in our negotiation offers. Then they maintained that our communique resulted from their threatening gesture and that their show of strength was having success. However, this is completely wrong. They are mistaking flexibility and wisdom for weakness.

SPIEGEL: Do you believe the Americans do not want to hold negotiations by any means?

D'Escoto: If they really desire diplomatic progress they should talk to us on an equal level. But they do not want this. When Mr Stone was here, Commandante Ortega told him that we are very interested in bilateral relations. Thereupon Stone answered: "I do not believe that this is necessary, for, after all, the United States is a superpower and Nicaragua is very small. We do not feel threatened by Nicaragua, thus we do not need talks on bilateral relations." This is exactly what he said.

SPIEGEL: Is this typical of U.S. diplomacy in Central America? You also have had talks with other U.S. representatives, including with Jeane Kirkpatrick, Reagan's UN ambassador, who has a say in defining Washington's Central American policy.

D'Escoto: She is very bellicose and convinced that might means right. Since America is the most powerful country it has a concomitant right to do whatever it wants. Such diplomats represent the opposite of diplomacy.

SPIEGEL: We have just witnessed another coup in Central America. Do you see any connection between the Guatemalan coup and the regional crisis?

D'Escoto: The Americans recognized the new Guatemalan government before the change of power had been officially confirmed. They seem to be quite satisfied with it.

SPIEGEL: But they actually were not so bad off with the deposed General Rios Montt.

D'Escoto: That is correct. But perhaps they were hoping for an even better man. The new government is obviously charging that Rios Montt was planning to partake in the search for a political solution. It actually does not want to appear as though it is interested in a dialogue. It seems to me that the situation in Central America has become even more serious following the coup in Guatemala.

BORGE SAYS GOVERNMENT NOT NEGOTIABLE

PA160250 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution and Interior Minister Tomas Borge, said Saturday during the inauguration of a semi-open [semi-abierta] farm in Granada that it is advisable to let everyone know that our country's domestic situation is an exclusively Nicaraguan affair and we will not negotiate on our kind of government or democracy, as our enemies wish.

If our enemies do not like our democracy that is their problem, but we will have our own kind of government in Nicaragua, he added. Let no one think that it will be a formalistic, demagogic, and mendacious democracy similar to those abounding like weeds in Latin America, the revolutionary leader stressed. Nicaragua is accused of being totalitarian, of violating human rights, and of not having a true democracy, but those who assert this are wrong, because this is the most generous revolution in history, he said. It does not even use firing squads to punish its enemies, he added.

HAVANA ON DISTRIBUTION OF LAND TO PEASANTS

PA151528 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] A new distribution of land title deeds to Nicaraguan peasants will be carried out tomorrow in the departments of Masaya, Rivas, Carazo, and Granada as part of the events honoring (Edvi Guzman), a member of the Sandinist Youth murdered by a band of former Somoquist guardsmen. This, the second distribution of land in the region, will include approximately 16,000 hectares of land. It will benefit 1,500 peasants organized in 86 cooperatives and a group of individual producers.

ARDE DENIES WRITING ANTI-PANAMA BULLETIN

PA151859 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Aug 83 p 18

[Text] Alvaro Altamirano, who represents the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, in Panama, today accused the nine commanders of the Nicaraguan Government Junta of writing a bulletin containing slanders against high Panamanian authorities.

According to Altamirano, the "clandestine" news bulletin was issued in Nicaragua and distributed to the news media in Panama by agents of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, not by ARDE. The Sandinist government has tried to involve our organization in Panamanian politics, with publications supposedly issued by our organization, which we did not publish, Altamirano added. He emphatically denied reports published by LA PRENSA on 11 and 12 August, and alerted national and international media to the possibility that enemies of ARDE might try to continue with this campaign. Altamirano stressed that ARDE analyzes and makes public statements on the enormous political, social, and economic problems confronted by the Nicaraguan people.

ARDE GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES WAR BULLETIN NO 52

PA131240 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity; Nicaragua Democratic Movement; and Sandino Revolutionary Front War Bulletin No 52]

[Text] The General Command of the armed forces of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] informs the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world that:

1. At 0730 9 August 1983, in the vicinity of La Azucena, two ARDE fighting squads were ambushed by the pro-Soviet enemy and its foreign advisers, composed of one EPS [Sandinist People's Army] platoon traveling in a trailer hooked on to a tractor.
2. After an exchange of rifle fire, the valor of our fighters enabled them to break out of the enemy encirclement and force the attackers flee in disarray.
3. At 0830 another of our squads mobilizing in support of the ambush victims captured the individual Nieves Oporta, an enemy in uniform whose nationality could not be determined. He was responsible for killing five peasants and burning many peasant homes in the El Consuelo area.
4. As a result of these actions, we counted 25 enemy killed and recovered one Soviet-made AK-47 rifle with attachments, one Israeli-made Galil rifle, and one demolition grenade. We suffered no casualties.
5. The prisoner of war was summarily tried and positively, insistently, and amply identified by several peasant families, who objected to his being released and demanded that he be treated as a war criminal. In view of the serious evidence presented, his execution was ordered, since he had no recourse but to admit to the charges that the people had overwhelmingly brought against him. The execution was carried out by several townspeople chosen by the community.

Without totalitarianism, or a return to the past! Free fatherland or death!

[Dated] Mountains of Nicaragua, 11 August 1983

[Signed] General Command of the ARDE armed forces

BRIEFS

GEOHERMIC PLANT INAUGURATED -- The Momotombo Geothermic Plant, which cost approximately \$41 million, was inaugurated yesterday. The plant was financed with funds from the Inter-American Development Bank, the Venezuelan Investments Fund, and an Italian firm. The plant, which will begin producing 35 megawatts today has the Momotombo Volcano as its source of energy. [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Aug 83 PA]

FSLN DELEGATE -- The FSLN will participate in the Second Congress of the United Socialist Party of Mexico, PSUM, to be held in Mexico City from 9-16 August. Francisco de Asis Fernandez, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Committee of Solidarity With the Peoples, CNSP, has been appointed FSLN representative to the congress. He will demand urgent support for Nicaragua, due to imminent U.S. intervention. Fernandez will hold bilateral meetings with delegates from other world organizations to explain the situation prevailing in Central America. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 Aug 83 PA]

WHITE HOUSE 'DIFFERENCES,' POWER STRUGGLE NOTED

FL151817 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1429 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] The U.S. press has again referred to differences on foreign policy among the principal aides to President Ronald Reagan. In a report, ABC Television indicated these differences have become so sharp that the possible resignation of Secretary of State George Schultz has been mentioned.

THE WASHINGTON POST stated that the current U.S. secretary of state's influence on President Reagan has been decreasing progressively. The newspaper noted the ascendancy of National Security Adviser William Clark, who has seen his position strengthened by the designation of his assistant Robert McFarlane as special ambassador for the Middle East.

OUR AMERICA ON GUATEMALA, SEEDS OF REBELLION

PA151251 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan insists on blaming the Central American crisis on the subversive activities that, according to him, are being prompted by the Soviet Union and Cuba. However, he has not been able to fool the people of his own country, much less the people of the rest of the continent, who know too well the reason for the people's rebellion. Central America is one of the most backward and suffering regions in this hemisphere. U.S. imperialist domination there has su millions of human beings into misery and oppression. Guatemala is an eloquent example. There, reactionary military regimes continue to change. This is what happened last Monday [9 August] when General Rios Montt was deposed. But nothing has changed for the Guatemalan people.

Guatemala has a population of more than 7 million. Its territory is rich in natural resources. This wealth benefits more than 150 U.S.-based transnational corporations. There are more U.S. investments in Guatemala than in any other Central American country. The image of an unjust distribution of income exists there also, and this injustice is one of the main causes of rebellion. Statistics show that 59 percent of the country's total income is concentrated in the hands of only 5 percent of the population; 50 percent of the people have to live with 7 percent of the national income; and one-third of Guatemala's labor force is unemployed. The social situation in that country is a source of alarm. The infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the so-called Third World: 90 of each 1,000 children born alive die before they are 1 year old; 200 of each 1,000 die before their fourth birthday. Guatemalan life expectancy is approximately 50 years. More than 80 percent of the children under 5 are underfed.

Meanwhile, most of the country's agricultural land is dedicated to export crops dominated by foreign capital. This is the case with coffee, which represents one-third of all the exports, as well as with sugar, bananas, and cotton. Products for domestic consumption are planted under difficult conditions on small isolated pieces of land. There is no doubt that U.S. transnationals control Guatemala's economy while the people sink into poverty.

At the beginning of the 1950's, the people of Guatemala tried to change this situation and elected Jacobo Arbenz president. Arbenz implemented measures to benefit the people. However, this step represented an unacceptable threat to the interests of the United Fruit Company. Therefore, the CIA intervened in 1954 to stop the reforms that Arbenz was trying to introduce.

Later on, the madness of the Guatemalan oligarchy was such that U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who at that time was promoting his well-known campaign in favor of human rights, had to cut -- in 1977 -- the military aid that Washington was giving the Guatemalan regime. However, the cut was only superficial because as has been recently revealed, U.S. war materiel has continued arriving in the country, and the so-called Green Berets created by President Kennedy have been training Guatemalan cadets in counterinsurgency operations.

Guatemala's military budget for this year was 60 percent higher than last year. The increase in repression has provoked protests throughout the world because of the 12,000 persons the Rios Montt regime murdered in little over a year; because of the 35,000 persons who have disappeared; because of the 170,000 Guatemalan refugees who have been forced to cross the Mexican border; because of the continuous arrests of political leaders, journalists, labor unionists, priests, teachers, professionals, and peasants.

It is not strange that a situation such as the Guatemalans leads to rebellion, the right to which was proclaimed and defended by the founders of the nation currently being presided over by Ronald Reagan.

U.S. 'Warmongering'

PA151956 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Since early 1981, when the Nicaraguan Government tried to establish a dialogue with the United States and Honduras to eliminate any chance of a military confrontation in the region, Washington has maintained an ambiguous policy. The U.S. Government states that it is vaguely willing to hold talks but, at the same time, implements clearly warmongering steps. With this, Washington wants to gain time to take the situation to the brink of war and then begin negotiations. It is the usual policy of disdain for the Central American peoples. However, times have changed. Nicaragua has already warned that U.S. plans to negotiate under pressure and threats do not have much chance of success. This was declared amid the advancing political conversations established between the parties in conflict. Yet, although advances have been achieved in the negotiations, the situation in Central America has been rendered worse by the intensification of military pressure.

Thousands of former Somozist guardsmen have once again been concentrated on the Honduran border with Nicaragua in order to make another attempt to invade that neighboring country. As the same time, the Honduran Army has mobilized and has begun large-scale military maneuvers with the U.S. Armed Forces throughout the area. Those maneuvers have included the deployment of warships off Nicaragua's Pacific coast.

In El Salvador, Ronald Reagan's Government continues to supply economic and military aid to the genocidal Salvadoran regime, which it uses only to intensify and prolong the fighting in that country, thus threatening to regionalize the war. Despite the disparate strength of the parties in conflict, the war in El Salvador is being won by the guerrillas, who are supported by the active struggle being waged by all the people and by international solidarity from the world's democratic forces.

The Salvadoran patriotic organizations have been willing to engage in dialogue with the United States in the hope of achieving an agreement that will guarantee Washington's neutrality in El Salvador's internal conflict. FDR president Guillermo Ungo has stressed in this regard that the establishment of a process of negotiations is essential if dialogue is to be initiated without preconditions. He said that the U.S. Government, by rejecting the talks, is trying to gain time for military action. Events to date demonstrate that U.S. support for the Contadora Group's efforts has been merely verbal. Nor was Washington given a clear reply to the six-point proposal that Nicaragua made on 19 July. That proposal includes a nonaggression pact with Honduras; the total cessation of the supply of weapons to the conflicting parties in El Salvador and of military aid to the paramilitary groups; commitments by all to respect regional self-determination; an end to discrimination against Central America; and the prohibition of foreign military bases.

With absolute cynicism, U.S. authorities have argued that the Nicaraguan proposals are the result of Washington's military pressure. This reply is an arrogant provocation, which Nicaragua has described as a very dangerous game. With this policy, the U.S. Government simply acts to increase tension. Nicaragua has emphasized that the United States is responsible for making the regional situation worse and that, as a result, as long as it continues to promote tension and refuses to offer guarantees for Nicaragua's security, it cannot talk seriously about negotiations.

KENNEDY'S CENTRAL AMERICAN STATEMENTS CITED

FL151230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Senator Edward Kennedy said Saturday that the Reagan administration is carrying out a warmongering policy in Central America, the Middle East, and Africa, which could have serious military implications for the United States.

The senator from Massachusetts defended the efforts of the Contadora Group and said that the United States should take advantage of the opportunity to collaborate with those countries to seek a negotiated solution for El Salvador and the other nations of the region.

Senator Edward Kennedy added that the United States is currently carrying out a policy of war and not of peace in Central America.

RISQUET COMMEMORATES ANTI-MACHADO UPRISING

FL131200 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] The historical University of Havana was an appropriate setting for the ceremony last night commemorating the people's victory over Machado's tyranny. Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo, evoked the historical events of that period during the ceremony and reminded listeners that on 12 August 1933, the tyrant Machado fled the country as a result of the people's revolutionary uprising. He emphasized that the 1933 revolution was an important milestone in the struggle against imperialism and the oligarchy. It inspired the historic battles which renewed its liberating push before the walls of the Moncada Barracks 2 decades later, then led to the 1 January [1959] victory, and finally to the installation of the first socialist state on the American continent. After noting the contributions of Mella, Guillen, and Guiteras, he said the dreams of yesterday's forerunners and forgers of history have become realities in the new fatherland. Jorge Risquet concluded: The beautiful project realized by the revolution in a quarter-century of hard work is the worthiest homage to the heroes and martyrs of the anti-Machado uprising.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDAPRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM FAR EAST TOUR

FL152203 Bridgetown CANA in English 1546 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Aug 15, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird returns home today at the end of a Far East tour. The trip took him to the People's Republic of China, South Korea, and Hong Kong. The visit was primarily to boost investment to the 108-square mile island as well as to strengthen social and economic ties between the Caribbean state and those countries.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO BARBADOS TOURS CARIBBEAN

FL152203 Bridgetown CANA in English 1148 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Aug 15, CANA -- Cuban Diplomat Ivan Cesar Martinez is making an official visit to Antigua and Barbuda today, an official statement here has said. The diplomat will have talks with Acting Prime Minister Lester Bird. His visit is seen by government officials here as part of efforts by Cuba to establish diplomatic relations with Antigua and Barbuda. The Cuban has visited Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago, and is scheduled to go to Barbados at the end of his visit here. The Cuban is ambassador to Barbados.

BARBADOSEXPORTS, IMPORTS FOR FIRST QUARTER REPORTED

FL152059 Bridgetown CANA in English 1926 GMT 15 Aug 83

[By Irvine Reid]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 15, CANA -- Barbados' total exports for the first quarter of this year declined by 17.1 million dollars compared with exports for the same period last year (1 Bdos dollar; 50 cents U.S.) according to figures released today by the state-run Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (EPC).

For the first three months of this year, Barbados' exports were valued at 104.1 million dollars, down on the 121.2 million dollars earned in the first quarter of last year. Barbados' imports declined by 47.9 million dollars from 320.9 million dollars for January-March last year to 273.0 million dollars this year.

Exports to Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries were up by 8.3 million dollars to 34.7 million dollars in the first quarter of 1983 from 26.4 million dollars in the corresponding period last year. Imports from CARICOM during the first quarter of this year increased by 5.3 million dollars, from 32.3 million dollars to 37.6 million.

Barbados' exports of machinery and transport equipment for the first quarter of this year were valued at 47.6 million dollars, compared to 29.9 million dollars in 1982 -- an increase of 17.6 million dollars. Imports of machinery and transport equipment declined from 109.2 million dollars in the first quarter last year to 87.4 million dollars -- a drop of 21.8 million dollars.

Exports of chemicals increased by 1.5 million dollars from 7.7 million dollars last year to 9.2 million dollars this year, while the value of imported chemicals moved from 22.2 million dollars to 24.4 million dollars -- a hike of 2.2 million dollars.

Trinidad and Tobago continued to be Barbados' main CARICOM trading partner, importing 23.0 million dollars' worth of Barbadian goods between January and March this year, compared to 16.1 million dollars last year -- an increase of 6.9 million dollars.

Barbados, on the other hand, imported 30.2 million dollars worth of goods from the twin-island republic in the first quarter of this year, against 21.2 million dollars last year -- a hike of 9.0 million dollars.

Exports to Jamaica for the 1983 first quarter stood at three million dollars, against 3.2 million dollars last year, while imports from Jamaica stood at 4.6 million dollars, down on the 5.7 million dollars spent in the first three months of last year.

Barbados' exports to Guyana for the period January to March 1983 were valued at 916,004 dollars against 219,570 dollars for last year's corresponding period, while 1983 first quarter imports from Guyana stood at 450,840 dollars, below the 1.9 million dollars of last year's first quarter.

Exports to Grenada during the 1983 first quarter were valued at 1.3 million dollars, compared to 598,523 dollars for last year's first quarter, while imports cost Barbados 97,834 dollars last year above the 84,326 dollars for last year's first quarter.

Exports to St Lucia for the 1983 first quarter were valued at 2.1 million dollars, down on the 1.6 million dollars, while imports cost Barbados one million dollars, just below the 1.4 million dollars spent for the same period last year.

Barbados' January-March 1983 exports to St Vincent and the Grenadines were valued at 1.4 million dollars, compared with 1.5 million dollars in the 1983 first quarter and imports went from 1.1 million dollars between January and March last year to 577,495 this year.

Barbados' first quarter exports to non-CARICOM countries declined by 25.4 million dollars, from 94.8 million dollars last year to 69.4 million dollars this year. Imports, on the other hand, fell by 53.2 million dollars, from 288.5 million dollars last year to 235.3 million dollars in 1983.

Barbados in the 1983 first quarter exported 1.1 million dollars to Belgium compared to 505,046 dollars in the 1982 first quarter, while imports from Belgium increased from one million dollars in 1982 to 1.7 million dollars in 1983.

Exports to the United Kingdom were down during the 1983 first quarter, to 904,035 dollars from 15 million dollars last year. Imports from Britain also declined from 26.5 million dollars in the first quarter of last year to 25.4 million dollars in 1983 -- a drop of 1.1 million dollars.

Exports to Canada during the three-month period this year stood at 780,447 dollars compared to 2.1 million dollars last year, while imports increased from 18.3 million dollars to 21 million dollars this year -- an increase of 2.7 million dollars.

Barbados' exports to the United States for the first quarter of this year were valued at 30.6 million dollars, against 35.3 million dollars the 1982 first quarter while imports from the U.S. stood at 114.7 million dollars, compared to 112.5 million dollars last year.

Imports from Japan for the first three months of this year were valued at 13.7 million dollars, against 12.9 million dollars last year. Barbados exported 23 million dollars worth of goods to Puerto Rico in the 1983 first quarter, compared to 120,713 dollars last year's first quarter.

Barbados' imports from Venezuela -- mainly oil -- declined from 24.1 million dollars in the first quarter of last year to 555,655 this year.

DOMINICAINTERNATIONAL AID ANNOUNCED FOR HEALTH SERVICES

FL152108 Bridgetown CANA in English 1635 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 15, CANA -- Dominica is to receive more than two million (E.C.) dollars (1 EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) from various international organisations to improve its health services, Health Minister Charles Maynard told parliament today. Maynard said the money, which will partly be used to better nutrition levels and better health facilities, will be received by the government over the next three years. He listed among the aid donors the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Fund for Population Activity (UNFPA), and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO). Maynard said that the money will help the government achieve the goal of having primary health care facilities for all by the year 2000.

ROSEAU PASSES IMF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE TEST

FL112242 Bridgetown CANA in English 2154 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 11, CANA -- Prime Minister Eugenia Charles says Dominica has passed the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic and financial performance test for receiving further economic development aid, but has no intention of borrowing more money from the fund.

She told reporters the latest IMF economic and financial performance test had been "good for the country" and that she expected an even better performance for the final test.

"With such a good record," she said, "Dominica will be in a position to take advantage of a good credit rating."

Dominica is presently ending a three-year 37.5 million dollar (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.) loan agreement negotiated with the fund when Prime Minister Eugenia Charles came to office, claiming that the country was virtually bankrupt and the economy in shambles.

Miss Charles told reporters: "It has been hard work keeping a tight lid on expenditures." But, she added: "We have been able to meet certain targets which the country stands to benefit from."

The loan agreement was criticised by trade unions and political opposition groups, which claimed that it was aimed at bringing severe economic hardships. The agreement with the fund called for an end to government subsidies to statutory bodies and a 10 percent wage ceiling for public servants.

Miss Charles told reporters that Dominica had already begun repaying the IMF loan. The 37.5 million dollar loan agreement ends next February.

JAMAICASEAGA DESIGNATES SHEARER SECURITY MINISTER

FL160045 Bridgetown CANA in English 2305 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 15, CANA -- Prime Minister Edward Seaga tonight announced that he has appointed his deputy and skilled labour negotiator, Hugh Shearer, to act as minister of national security and justice, now a hot seat because of a sick-out by hundreds of policemen.

Seaga said that the substantive minister and attorney general, Winston Spaulding, has been ill for more than a week and was likely to be away for at least another fortnight. This will bring Shearer, the foreign minister and president-on-leave of the powerful Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU), directly into the negotiations to get the policemen, who have been protesting since Thursday, back to work. They want government to increase fringe benefits in a new wage contract, but the administration claims that it does not have the money to pay. This will not be the first time that the absence of a substantive minister has given Shearer the opportunity to get involved in delicate negotiations that had not been going well for the government. Early last year when bauxite workers were on strike, he was brought in to help while labour and public service minister, J.A.G. Smith, who had earlier been involved, went abroad on business.

PNP ACCUSES PRESIDENT REAGAN OF MANIPULATION

FL151903 Bridgetown CANA in English 1624 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 15, CANA -- The opposition People's National Party (PNP) has accused U.S. President Ronald Reagan of using his office to attempt to manipulate Jamaica's internal affairs. The PNP also said that the President was misleading and dishonest in implying that freedom and democracy did not exist here during the party's term of office that ended in 1980. President Reagan in a speech in Miami on Friday said that Jamaica, under the free-enterprise-supporting Edward Seaga government, rather than Marxist Cuba should serve as Central America's model for development. "It's a tribute to the freedom-loving Jamaicans that they withstood the totalitarian temptation and are now rebuilding their country's prosperity with the tools of freedom and democracy," Reagan said.

Prime Minister Seaga came to power in October 1980 when his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) defeated the socialist PNP that had been in power for eight years.

"The People's National Party condemns in the strongest terms the misleading, dishonest implication contained in President Reagan's remarks as he sought to imply that freedom and democracy did not exist in Jamaica before the 1980 general elections," Party Secretary Paul Robertson said in a statement Sunday. The PNP said it is planning to send a protest to the American Embassy in Kingston. Noting that it was not the first time that the U.S. President had made such remarks, the PNP called on him to "desist from using the vast influence of his office and the power of the United States to manipulate for his own cynical purposes the internal affairs of Jamaica." Furthermore, the PNP said, it was grossly inaccurate to imply that prosperity was returning to Jamaica under the free market model of the JLP, when in fact conditions had worsened.

The party pointed to the multiple exchange rates here under the so-called parallel exchange market system that has effectively devalued the Jamaican dollar, the reported chaos on the money market, the shortage of foreign exchange and the high prices that these have caused. It said: "President Reagan would be better served if the United States Embassy in Kingston kept him abreast of the chaos of the parallel market situation, mounting unemployment, the skyrocketing increase in the cost of living and the near collapse of the productive sector of the Jamaican economy, all stemming directly from the economic model of the present Jamaican Government.

The Reagan administration developed close relations with the conservative government of Prime Minister Seaga and has pumped huge amounts of aid into this island to help shore up its shaky economy. Jamaica is the third largest per capita recipient of U.S. aid and the Reagan administration is hoping for Seaga to make a success here. In February last year President Reagan said that Seaga was "making freedom work again," and just before visiting here in April 1982, said the prime minister had wrested Jamaica from communism.

BURNHAM ADDRESSES PNC BIENNIAL CONGRESS

Scores U.S. Policy

FL160051 Bridgetown CANA in English 2229 GMT 15 Aug 83

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 15, CANA -- President Forbes Burnham today accused the United States Administration of attempting to dictate to his government how it should run the country.

Addressing more than three thousand delegates and observers at his People's National Congress (PNC) Biennial Congress, he said "the present U.S. Administration, as a matter of theology and ideology, disagrees violently with our economic policies generally, and would have them corrected. We are not free to pursue our own road to development. We do not have the right to make our own policy decisions. This is not mere meddling in our internal affairs but dictation. We must conform or else."

The PNC leader referred to the threat by the United States to block a requested loan of 156 million dollars (one Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.) from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and said the project for which the loan was sought was found to be "technically and financially feasible."

He quoted a section of a note which the United States Ambassador to Guyana Gerald Thomas handed to Guyana's Foreign Minister Mr Rashleigh Jackson which read: "In the view of the United States Government, the criteria listed in the loan document for a rice sector action plan are neither specific enough nor far-reaching enough to achieve sufficient changes in pricing, marketing and milling policies to enable the Abary Two project to succeed. The United States Government does not feel that the loan's objective of increased production will be possible without these changes."

Mr. Burnham told the delegates that "the United States Government through its representatives keeps emphasising its alleged solicitude for the rice industry."

"The fact is that it wants to have the entire industry privatised, with the big millers being responsible for milling and marketing locally and overseas to the exclusion of the state," he said. He said the United States "wants all subsidies to consumers of rice removed and to let the so-called market place dictate prices."

Mr Burnham said the threat to veto the loan and the U.S. cancellation of two other loans totalling 22.8 million dollars (U.S.) for the agricultural sector were part of a plan, but did not explain.

The PNC leader said the second phase of the drainage and irrigation project for which the IDB loan is being sought will be completed on time "if we have to dig the canals with our finger nails. We did not win our independence to yield to and accept recolonisation."

"Devious and macabre are the tactics and the intrigues of those who would recolonise us. No holds are barred," he said. Mr. Burnham said one foreign embassy keeps an up-to-date list of foreign guests at hotels here and depending on the purpose of their visit, "invites and brainwashes" them with anti-Guyana propaganda. "One ambassador, like Nicodemus (of the Bible), travels by night seeking to subvert senior civil servants, corporation managers, businessmen, churchmen, and even appeal court judges," he said. The same one plies representatives of international finance institutions and friendly governments with arguments to the effect that loans should not be made available to Guyana, he continued. The expressed objective is that our economy would collapse completely, confusion and civil disorder would follow and from the ashes a man more acceptable to the powers than he would emerge, a quisling who would pawn Guyana to the new colonizers, Mr Burnham said.

He warned of a move to infiltrate the trade union movement to carry out acts of subversion.

While not giving details, Mr Burnham said the riots and breakdown of the economy as well as of law and order which the imperialists and their paid and unpaid agents planned and forecast on two occasions in 1982 and twice again in 1983 have not eventuated.

The congress is also being attended by representatives from Angola, China, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Korea, Namibia, Nicaragua, the German Democratic Republic, Romania, El Salvador, the African National Congress and the Pan-African Congress of South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, the Soviet Union, Uruguay, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, and Zambia.

Calls for South-South Dialogue

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[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 15, CANA -- Guyana's President Forbes Burnham today issued a call for South-South dialogue and for the development of self-reliance and self-confidence among Third World countries which, he said, cannot bargain effectively with the developing world from a position of weakness. He was delivering the key-note address at the fifth biennial delegates' congress of his ruling People's National Congress (PNC), being attended by more than 3,000 delegates and observers.

"The Third World cannot effectively bargain with the developed world from a position of weakness. We cannot, as a series of individual entities, hope to achieve much," Burnham said. He added: "The Romans who once ruled the then-known world are alleged to have perfected the techniques of dividing and ruling. Let us not fall prey to the computerised techniques of their successors."

"It is true that our joint resources are not fully developed but they are substantial, substantial enough to ensure our own development, substantial [enough] to be crucial to the growth and prosperity of the developed world." The Guyana leader continued: "It is therefore our duty in the Third World to so organise those joint resources as to achieve both objectives and compel a meaningful dialogue between South and North."

Burnham said North-South dialogue had been just a phrase because the South had not spoken as one while the North has been for all practical purposes united. "Some of us have permitted ourselves to be lured by the temporary advantage of hand-outs into breaking ranks," he said, adding: "The immediate need is for a South-South dialogue. Out of this can and should come a South strategy."

Burnham said to expect absolute unanimity at first might be unrealistic, adding that it was certain that there can be a majority who would be seriously involved. "Such a dialogue must not find any of the participants being partisans of one bloc or another, one great power or another. We must be partisans of the Third World. It is possible to be ideologically aligned but so far as the economic interests of one group are concerned, the only alignment must be to the economic survival, independence, and progress of the Third World," Burnham told the delegates.

He called on developing countries to develop self-reliance and self-confidence, which, he added, have been missing in too many instances to date. "Ours is the colonial legacy of the dependency syndrome and self-denigration. We can survive and prosper if we have the will, if we realise and act upon the realisation that in this game, the developed world does not have all the trumps," the Guyana president said.